

page 20



PAGE 3



30 p

EVERY
WEEKDAY

Don't change Blue Peter, media times pages 39-42 FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS page 26



BY CAROLINE MERRELL

Mr O'Neill, 52, will receive a basic salary of £850,000, a guaranteed 100

His predecessor Martin Taylor, who left the bank abruptly at the end of last year after a disagreement about future strategy, by contrast

Mr O'Neill arrives from the Bank of America, where he was partly responsible for the £80 billion merger with Nationsbank, which created the country's largest bank. Before embarking on his banking career, he served with the US Marines between 1969 and 1971, did not see active service in Vietnam. Instead, as a volun-

Mr O'Neill is expected to preside over a complete overhaul of the bank, which has shed about 20,000 staff and closed hundreds of branches over the past decade. He has a history of overseeing huge mergers, and

Mr O'Neill will be using his £175,000 expatriate allowance to move his wife, two children and two dogs to Britain.

Shares lifted, page 27
Commentary, page 29



BY CLAUDIA JOSEPH AND STEWART TENDLER

The guard works for a security company employed to watch the ground and the other three are from the Far East. The four were held by police af-

Spokesman Graham Sharpe, of bookmaker William Hill, said the same rules did not apply in Britain. "Domestically, all bets are void if a match is abandoned. You keep your stake money but it's impossible to make any money."

While it was described as a technical fault and Vic Worrall, the Wimbledon manager, blamed the problem on faulty switchgear. But in February last year there were reports that a Malaysian betting syndicate had placed large amounts on the matches.



By SUSIE STEINER

Speaking on her daytime show, she said: "It's embarrassing. It's bloody awful. All I can say is that it looks like there's a fashion for hoaxing."

In a statement last night, the BBC said: "We can confirm that two agencies have been used to book guests for four items on *The Vanessa Show*. Two producers and a researcher have been sent home pending further inquiries. We are still interviewing members of

Continued on page 2, col 7

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

Mr Robertson also announced that lead elements of an armoured battle group were being placed on notice to leave at any time. A week ago,

If a peace settlement is reached, part of the deal will be that Belgrade agrees to the deployment of a 30,000-man Nato force in Kosovo to implement the accord.

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

panel said that "on the basis of common experience, a factor of collaboration is necessary on the part of a woman wearing jeans if they are to be pulled off".

They said the girl — named only as Rosa — had clearly allowed herself to be undressed.

Marettia Scoca, the prosecuting lawyer, said the Court of Cassation ruling was very odd. "No matter how tight jeans are, they are designed to be taken off as well as put on. I think the judges have forgotten the importance of the zip fastener."

The newspaper *Il Messaggero* said the ruling amounted to "a manual for aspiring rapists".

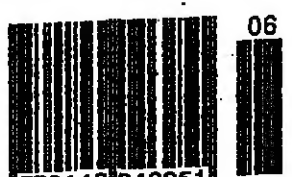


NEW YORK: SINCE 1837

LONDON 25 OLD BOND STREET 0171-489 2790
HARRODS KNIGHTSBRIDGE 0171-730 1331

TV & RADIO	50-51
WEATHER	26
CROSSWORDS	26-52
LETTERS	23
OBITUARIES	75
SIMON JENKINS	72
ARTS	35-38
CHESS & BRIDGE	46
COURT & SOCIAL	74
LAW REPORT	43
STYLE	20-21
BUSINESS	27-31, 33

Buying The Times Overseas
 Australia 5ch 55p; Belgium B Frs 110c; Canada
 \$3.50; Canarys 1st 400; Cyprus C£1.25; Denmark
 DKr 22.00; Finland Finn 30.50; France
 FR 17.00; Germany DM 5.50; Gibraltar 90c;
 Greece Dr 75h; Netherlands F 6.5; Italy L
 5.000; Luxembourg LF 110; Madeira Esc 350;
 Malta 80c; Monaco Dfr 30.00; Norway Kr
 25.00; Portugal Esc 350; Spain Pcs 400; Sweden
 Skr 25.00; Switzerland S Frs 6.00; Tunisia
 Din 3.50; USA \$3.50.
 Periodicals Postage Paid at Rahway NJ Post-
 master: Send address corrections to: The
 Times c/o Mercury International 365 Blair
 Road Rahway NJ 07065.



Kosovo gloom, page 18

Diners thrown out by Fawltly hotelier

Paul Wilkinson reports on how a Saturday night out for a dozen diners ended in court

NEVILLE STABLEFORTH achieved more mayhem at his restaurant, one summer's evening last year than the fictional Basil Fawltly ever did.

From the start things were pretty prickly in the dining room of the Fir Tree Country Hotel as poor service and long delays raised the tension for the diners on their Saturday night out. But matters did not boil over until nearly 10pm, when an 82-year-old customer had the temerity to complain that his meal was cold and tasteless.

Stableforth, 37, who helped to run the hotel owned by his girlfriend, exploded. When the pensioner refused to pay, he threatened to punch him. At that, Edwin McNaughton, who himself had been waiting more than 90 minutes with his family for their meals to arrive, intervened.

An unchastened Stableforth, who later admitted he had been drinking, reacted by immediately ordering everyone out of the hotel in Crook, Co Durham. As the dozen or so bemused customers abandoned their places and trooped out, they were harassed with a tirade of abuse.

Outside in the car park Stableforth squared up to Mr McNaughton and challenged him to a fight, delivering a blow with a speed the hungry diner had not expected at the Fir Tree Hotel. It cut Mr McNaughton above his eye so badly he needed stitches.

The story was related yesterday at Durham Crown Court to Judge Denis Orde, who told Stableforth: "It may be amusing in a TV situation comedy but in real life it is not funny at



Neville Stableforth: was put on probation for two years

all to be on the receiving end of that sort of conduct.

"Your conduct in this matter was very childish indeed but it was also very outrageous. It seems that was the one thing you could supply within a reasonable time.

That man was simply in the hotel with his elderly mother, wife and family in order to have a meal, or so he hoped. Even then, the row of complaints seemed to come from other parties at another table. Whatever the rights and wrongs of that, it was the end of the matter. But you chose to shout, abuse, harry and intimidate him and follow him out of the restaurant. It is not surprising that your business at that hotel had failed to attract

much custom if that is how you dealt with customers."

Stableforth, now living at Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, admitted causing actual bodily harm to Mr McNaughton on August 22 last year and was put on probation for two years. He was also ordered to pay his victim £200 compensation for his ruined evening and £200 court costs. The restaurant is now under new ownership. After the hearing Mr McNaughton, a garage manager from Crook, said: "He is bound to be linked to Basil Fawltly after the way he reacted but I think that's a shame, because Basil is a bit of a hero of mine. Neville Stableforth is the least welcoming host I've

ever come across and I doubt anywhere he runs in future will be highly recommended by anyone."

Mr McNaughton had taken his 74-year-old mother to the hotel to celebrate her success in gaining an A level in art. They were accompanied by her two grandchildren. He had ordered a grill, his mother a curry and the children fish and chips and a steak.

"We got our starters around 8.20 and we waited and waited but by 9.55 we still hadn't got any food. We weren't happy but we were not alone. The people behind, including an 82-year-old man, complained that the food was cold and tasteless and asked to see the managers. She came out with Stableforth and a row erupted and they refused to pay.

"At that moment our meals arrived and we started to tuck in but the row was still going on next to us. I put my knife and fork down and turned to see what was happening, and he snarled at me: 'You big fat bastard, are you starting?' I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I'm glad my mother is hard of hearing."

"I told him if he was going to hit an old man, then he would have to hit me as well." He said Stableforth then erupted and told everyone in the dining room: "Get off, get out of the restaurant."

"He tried to bundle me out of the door but I told him I wasn't leaving without my family. I didn't want to leave them in there with a raving lunatic. When we got outside he made as though he was going to hit me with his left so I put my hands up. He then hit me with his right. I grabbed him by the throat in self-defence, just to get him off me. I think he ended up with a bloody nose as well. He hit me very hard. I was in a bit of a mess."

"We had tried to book tables elsewhere but everywhere was packed. I think his reputation travelled before him."

In court Beatrice Bolton, for the prosecution, said: "Stableforth told them, just like Basil Fawltly, in no uncertain terms



Edwin McNaughton: punched after speaking up for an elderly diner at the hotel



to get out of the restaurant. He then followed them outside and said to Mr McNaughton: 'Do you want to put me down? Well I will put you down.'

In mitigation, Anthony Braithwaite said: "At the time of the incident Stableforth was at a low ebb due to the poor financial straits." He had been taking pills to help him to cope

with anxiety and, on that night, had mixed them with drink. Stableforth was full of remorse and could make no excuses. His girlfriend and he had since split up and the hotel had new owners. Stableforth told police at the time: "It was probably everything coming to a head and the poor fellow got the backlash, didn't he?"

Under the Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982 a diner should expect a meal "produced with reasonable care and skill" and in a "reasonable time". If the food is unacceptable the diner can refuse to pay all or part of the bill. If the service is poor but the food acceptable the diner can withhold all or part of the service charge.

Boy of 8 carried drug into jail, say police

By ANNIE FLURY

A BOY aged eight was detained by police yesterday after he was allegedly found carrying drugs on a prison visit. A woman with the child, not his mother, was being questioned by detectives last night. The pair were detained in the morning as they went to visit an inmate in Barlinnie prison, Glasgow.

A spokeswoman for Strathclyde Police said that they had not got as far as the visiting hall when they were stopped. They had been taken to nearby Baird Street police station, where the boy had been found to be in possession of a quantity of controlled drugs, believed to be heroin.

The spokeswoman said that the boy was later released and that a report would be submitted to the Reporter to the Children's Panel. She said the drugs had a street value of between £150 and £175 but could be worth about £500 inside the prison.

Barlinnie, on the eastern outskirts of Glasgow, is Scotland's biggest prison, housing 1,100 inmates. Visiting times are no longer restricted to a particular time of day, and in many cases families book an appointment for a specific time beforehand.

David Melrose, chairman of the Scottish Prison Officers' Association, said it was difficult to stop drugs entering jails. "If we have open visit facilities, it is readily available for abuse." He said that in the past babies had been used to smuggle drugs into prisons. "The only thing that would stop it is a return to complete closed visits which is unacceptable in this day and age."

Gaile McCann, a Glasgow councillor and founder member of Mothers Against Drugs, said that a stricter regime was needed in prisons. "Inmates will stop at nothing to get their drugs in. It is immoral."

The Scottish Prison Service declined to give a comment on the incident.

Officer is held over jail escape

By RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

A PRISON officer has been arrested after a man accused of involvement in an £8 million drug smuggling ring escaped from jail.

The officer was arrested after being removed from duty at Wormwood Scrubs in West London after a Prison Service inquiry into the escape of Tony Lavene. He was questioned about suspicions that Mr Lavene was helped to escape.

Mr Lavene, 54, fled last month after being taken to the visiting area for an arranged visit with his wife. She did not arrive and Mr Lavene managed to walk out unchallenged, past security cameras and doors.

He was not discovered missing until two hours later when a roll-call was held at 4pm. He is still at large.

One theory to be investigated by police is that Mr Lavene, from Cheshire, was wearing black trousers and a white shirt similar to the uniform worn by prison officers.

Mr Lavene was on remand at the jail, facing charges of possessing drugs with intent to supply.

Paedophile flew to America to see girl he met on Internet

Man hoped to take teenager home to Tyneside, writes Paul Wilkinson



Waddup: he may now be deported, say police

A BRITISH paedophile has been arrested in America as he met a girl of 15 whom he had got to know on the Internet from Tyneside. It is believed he hoped to make her his child bride.

Police in Cincinnati, Ohio, say that Ian Waddup, 37, established a relationship with the girl over many hours spent on the Internet. After flying out to meet her, he told them that he planned to stay in the US until her 16th birthday in May and then bring her back to England.

Last night Waddup, who has convictions for indecent assaults on boys and girls as far

back as 1977 and as recently as 1994, was facing charges alleging corruption of a minor and that he interfered with the parental custody of a child. He is due to appear in court on March 4, but could be deported as an undesirable alien.

Details about Waddup were sent to Interpol on Monday soon after he left for the US, as a neighbour in Newcastle had passed on details of his plans. The information was still on its way to Cincinnati police

when he was arrested later that same day, after a member of the public saw him with the girl and alerted police.

The girl's parents, who live in a good neighbourhood in Hamilton, near Cincinnati, were said to be horrified when they learned of their daughter's liaison. Detective Joseph Warren of Springdale police department said: "I am convinced he was a danger to that girl. During interview, he admitted to us that he had been convicted of three indecent assaults on boys and girls aged between 6 and 12 or 13."

"It is of great concern to us and the parents of this young girl that a man with his background had arranged to meet her in this way. I believe she could very well have been in danger from him."

He said they first came into contact with each other in January 1998 and had been corresponding by letter, E-mail and telephone. "Her parents became aware of what had been happening in the past year

and tried their best to put a stop to it. But their daughter arranged to meet Mr Waddup and he flew to the States with the intention of staying here until May when she was 16. At that point we believe they intended to fly back to England."

Waddup flew to Cincinnati via Chicago after telling his elderly aunt, who shares his three-bedroomed council semi in Newcastle, that he was going to a job as a chef.

The girl played truant from school and took a taxi to the airport to meet him. They went by cab to a shopping mall where a passer-by alerted a woman police officer. Detective Warren said: "A citizen thought they just didn't look right together."

Details had since been passed to the US Attorney General's office. Detective Warren said: "Interpol received a tip from someone who knew what he was coming here to do. Waddup had at least three convictions between 1977 and 1994 in the UK for sex offences against children under 13. The last was on May 6 1994, when he was given three years probation for indecent assault. He is not on the sex offenders' register."

Union ruins prisoners' big night in

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE curtain has been brought down on nights of opera at a jail after prison officers refused to work extra hours voluntarily.

By withdrawing their goodwill, the officers at Downview jail in Surrey have forced Pimlico Opera to return 500 tickets to music lovers and to lose £5,000 in much-needed funds. In protest at the imposition of a nationwide 2.7 per cent pay settlement, prison officers across the country have withdrawn goodwill working under which they work extra hours in exchange for time off at a later date, instead of pay.

Jessica Wanmaker, Pimlico's administrator, said: "It is a great shame but not the end of the world. I understand the position of the officers. This is the only action they can take as they are banned from taking industrial action. It is very unfortunate. We are just sorry for the prisoners."

Pimlico Opera, a small company of which Sir Stephen Tumim, the former Chief Inspector of Prisons, is a patron, had planned to perform Kurt

Weill and Bertolt Brecht's *The Threepenny Opera* for prisoners, their families and people on the company's mailing-list for four nights this week.

Six singers from the company were to be joined by about 20 male prisoners on stage in the jail's gym for a nightly performance. Inmates at the low-security Category C jail had also helped back stage.

Prison officers had volunteered to stay at work beyond their normal shift time to help handle the 250 people arriving at the jail to see each performance and to ensure security at the prison. But after officers had deductions made from the pay after taking part in an hour-long protest over pay last month, they withdrew their goodwill.

Pimlico was forced at short notice to hold two afternoon performances for the 250 guests; and in the evening, instead of performances, to put on two "dress rehearsals" which could be watched by a maximum of 20 people.

Richard Morrison, page 35

World Offers.

Flight prices from:

Geneva
£145 rtn

Rome
£135 rtn

Boston
£199 rtn

For thousands of World Offers call
0345 222111 Book by 3rd March '99.
www.britishairways.com
 or see your Travel Agent

Fares are return from London and subject to availability and travel periods vary. Includes taxes, correct at 27.1.99. For details see ITV Teletext p.380, your British Airways Travel Shop or book and pay at our Web site.

WORLD OFFERS
BRITISH AIRWAYS
 The world's favourite airline

PC WORLD
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

SALE

**BRITAIN'S
BIGGEST
COMPUTER
SALE**

**PLUS
EXTRA SALE SAVINGS
IN-STORE TODAY**

**SAVE UP TO £30
ON SCANNERS**

PLUSTEK
Flatbed Scanner
600 x 1200 dpi optical resolution.
MODEL: Plustek 9636 Turbo.
WAS £99.99
EXTRA SALE SAVING £20
PC WORLD SALE PRICE **£79.99**

AGFA
Flatbed Scanner
600 x 1200 dpi optical resolution.
MODEL: Agfa Snapscan 1212p.
WAS £129.99
EXTRA SALE SAVING £30
PC WORLD SALE PRICE **£99**

COMPEYE
Flatbed Scanner
500 x 600 dpi optical resolution.
30 bit colour.
MODEL: Simplex DP305.
NEW
PC WORLD PRICE £49.99

**SAVE UP TO £20
ON PRINTERS**

HEWLETT PACKARD
Portable Inkjet Printer
Up to 600 x 300 dpi resolution.
Includes infra-red adaptor and
NICAD rechargeable battery.
MODEL: DJ340CBL.
WAS £219
EXTRA SALE SAVING £20
PC WORLD SALE PRICE **£199**

EPSON
Laser Printer
Laser printing at 600 dpi resolution and
up to 8 pages per minute, combined
with a free photo-realistic for all your
colour needs. MODEL: EP 5700.
(Free Epson 5700 to voucher redemption)
FREE COLOUR INKJET PRINTER*
PC WORLD PRICE **£329.99**

free serve
for
free
unlimited
internet
access
Pick up a free disc in-store
today!
The fast and easy way to a fully featured Internet
Package for the cost of a local call
www.freeserve.net

**We won't
be beaten
on price****

**EXTRA SALE SAVING
SAVE £200**
**OVER £500
WORTH OF
SOFTWARE!**
**INTERNET
READY**
**CYRIX
MII 300
PROCESSOR**
**INC
VAT**
**EXTRA SALE SAVING
WAS £799 £699 SAVE £200**
PC WORLD SALE PRICE
£599
OR £17.5 per month*

**NEW SPECIAL
OFFER**
FREE
STEERING WHEEL
MODEL: Desktop PC Wheel
FREE
Colin
McRae
Rally
FREE
Grand
Touring
**ALL THIS
FOR ONLY
£999**
**OVER £1000
WORTH OF
SOFTWARE!**
PACKARD BELL
366MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor
64Mb SDRAM, 6.4Gb Hard Disk, 128k Cache Memory,
32x Multimedia, 4Mb 2x AGP ATI Rage Pro Graphics,
56k Modem, 15" Colour Monitor, plus over £1000
worth of software including Windows 98, Word 97,
Works 4.5, Money 98 and much more.
MODEL: Pulsar C366.
PC WORLD PRICE **£999**
INC VAT
OR £17.5 per month*

HEWLETT PACKARD
400MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor
64Mb SDRAM, 6.4Gb Hard Disk,
128k Cache Memory, 4x DVD Drive,
8Mb 3D 2x AGP ATI Rage Pro Turbo
Graphics, 15" Colour Monitor,
56k v.90 Modem, Windows 98,
MS Works, Quicken, Money 99,
Encarta 99 World Atlas and more.
MODEL: Pavilion 6405.
PC WORLD PRICE **£1099**
INC VAT
OR £17.5 per month*

NEW SPECIAL OFFER
FREE PLUS FREE PLUS FREE
COLOUR PRINTER MODEL: Hewlett
Packard DJ 420c
SCANNER MODEL: Primax 9600
**ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA
AND EXPLORE TALKING DICTIONARY***
FREE COMPUTER DESK

**EXTRA SALE SAVING
SAVE £100**
**333MHz
PROCESSOR**
**56k v.90
MODEM**
**EXTRA SALE SAVING
WAS £899 SAVE £100**
PC WORLD SALE PRICE
£799
INC VAT
OR £17.5 per month*

COMPAQ
333MHz AMD K6-2 Processor
64Mb (Fast 100MHz) SDRAM, 512k Cache Memory, 4.0Gb
Hard Disk, 32x Multimedia, 4Mb 64-bit Direct 3D Graphics,
56k v.90 Modem, 15" Colour Monitor, Windows 98, Word 97,
Works 4.5, Quicken and choose 7 top software titles.*
MODEL: Presario 2292.
**EXTRA SALE SAVING
WAS £899 SAVE £100**
PC WORLD SALE PRICE
£799
INC VAT
OR £17.5 per month*

DVD
**400MHz
PROCESSOR**
**ALL THIS
FOR ONLY
£1099**

**SAVE UP TO £150
ON PERIPHERALS**

EXTRA SALE SAVING £10
**56k v.90
EXTERNAL
MODEM**
Modem Technology
WAS £69.99
PC WORLD SALE PRICE
£59.99

SOUND CARD
Creative Labs
Sound Blaster
Live! Professional quality
sound for your PC.
WAS £149
SAVE £20
PC WORLD SALE PRICE **£129**

EXTRA SALE SAVING £20
RE-WRITEABLE CD RECORDER
Sony 24x playback,
4x Write, 2x Rewrite.
MODEL: Sony CRX 100C.
WAS £299
PC WORLD SALE PRICE
£279

EXTRA SALE SAVING £150
DIGITAL CAMERA
Olympus EDN 1 768 x 512 resolution.
MODEL: C-1000.
WAS £499
PC WORLD SALE PRICE
£349

EXTRA SALE SAVING £100
DIGITAL CAMERA
Fujifilm 1280x1024 pixel
resolution. MODEL: F10700.
WAS £599
PC WORLD SALE PRICE
£499

**SAVE UP TO £100
ON PORTABLES**

TOSHIBA
120MHz Intel®
Pentium® Processor
with MMX™
Technology
16Mb RAM, 1.5Gb Hard
Disk, 6.1" TFT Colour
Display, Windows 95,
Lithium Battery, up to
1.5 hours charge.
MODEL:
Lithium 20C.
WAS £799
PC WORLD SALE PRICE
£699
SAVE £100

TOSHIBA
300MHz AMD
K6-2 Processor
32Mb RAM, 4.0Gb Hard Disk,
512k Cache Memory, 15.0"
Dual Scan Colour Display,
24x CD-ROM, 56k v.90
Modem, Windows 98,
MS Works 97.
MODEL:
Satellite 2550 CDS.
PC WORLD PRICE
£1299

COMPAQ
333MHz AMD
K6-2 Processor
64Mb RAM, 4.0Gb Hard Disk,
512k L2 Cache Memory,
12.1" TFT Colour Display,
24x CD-ROM, 56k v.90
Modem, Windows 98,
256 Integrated
Video Memory.
MODEL:
Presario 1260.
PC WORLD PRICE
£1499

**STORES NATIONWIDE
FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE CALL
0990 464 464**

PC WORLD
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

*We promise that if you find the same offer available at a lower price in any other local retail store within 7 days of purchase, we'll refund the difference guaranteed - provided you can produce your receipt and details of where you saw the offer.

**Based on current selling prices of actual or equivalent items (excluding disks and manuals for pre-installed software). *On all PCs and printers over £250. Credit Protection Insurance (CPI) is optional and will protect your payments in case of accident, unemployment or illness. CPI is not included in the monthly repayments unless otherwise stated. TYPICAL EXAMPLE: (Without CPI) Cash Price £699. No Deposit and no monthly payments of £20.00 - total amount payable £911.68. Minimum purchase £250. Subject to status. Finance quotations available from Day 144/PCU, Midlands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead HP1 7TG. The best bundle legs, Return, Celeron and MMX are Registered Trademarks of the Intel Corporation. *Shared with main system memory. **Boxes for illustration purposes only. VBY voucher redemption, shipping and handling charged at £4.99.

APR 19.9%

War crimes suspect faces his accuser

By TIM JONES

THE former British Rail ticket collector accused of war crimes yesterday faced a former schoolfriend who claims he saw him murdering 15 naked Jewish women with a sub-machinegun.

Fedor Zan, 75, a prosecution witness, against Anthony Sawoniuk, gave no evidence during his brief appearance in an Old Bailey courtroom.

He merely identified himself and took the oath nervously in a mixture of Belorussian and Ukrainian. That will enable him to be a sworn witness when he accompanies the jury on Tuesday to Domachevo in Belarus, where Mr Sawoniuk was alleged to have been a member of a search-and-kill squad tracking down Jews who escaped the main massacre of 2,900 men, women and children in the village in 1942.

As Mr Zan, who still lives in the Domachevo area, stood in the witness box, Mr Sawoniuk stared intently at him. It appeared that they exchanged a brief glance but neither gave an indication he had ever known the other.

The court had been told by John Nutting, QC, for the prosecution, that Mr Zan saw Mr Sawoniuk carry out a mass execution on a day in September 1942 when he hid behind some bushes after he heard women

crying. Mr Nutting said: "He saw about 15 Jewish women of mixed ages with yellow patches on their clothing standing in front of an open grave. The defendant was standing behind the women armed with a sub-machinegun. He ordered the women to remove their clothes and then shot them with the weapon. As they died, they collapsed into the grave."

Mr Zan, the jury was told, had watched his friend's transition from schoolboy to policeman, "from being just another youngster to one of those exercising a ruthless authority over Jew and gentile alike".

On one occasion, it is alleged, Mr Zan had seen his aunt and her family being taken to their execution by Mr Sawoniuk because of suspected association with anti-Nazi partisans. On another, Mr Nutting said, Mr Zan had seen the defendant taking a group of women who had been hiding in the ghetto towards the police station. "The witness noticed that one of them had a baby and saw the defendant hitting her with his hand with such force that she dropped the baby to the ground."

Later, he said, Mr Zan saw Mr Sawoniuk taking the same group in the direction of the sand hills, the area where the Jews were taken down a track,

known as the "road of death", to their execution.

Professor Christopher Browning, a leading authority on the Holocaust, said that after the German advance into Soviet-occupied territory in 1941 German police had decided that locally recruited young men could carry out what they described as "dirty work".

While German army units and police shot adult Jews, even the feared SS found the task of murdering young children unpleasant. That gruesome deed, Professor Browning said, was handed to local groups, who were required to enforce the occupation policies laid down by the Nazis.

Mr Sawoniuk, 77, from Bermondsey, southeast London, denies four charges of murder. The hearing continues.



The search for John Adam's bones at Northern Constabulary HQ, in Inverness

Killer sought — 160 years after his execution

By ADRIAN LEE

A SEARCH began yesterday for the body of a murderer who was hanged more than 150 years ago.

The remains of John Adam have already been exhumed three times to comply with the orders of a 19th century judge that he should forever lie beneath the police cells in Inverness. Development in the town means that, once again, he is on the move.

But the apparently simple task of removing Adam's bones from beneath the Northern Constabulary headquarters, which are to be redeveloped, has been complicated by an oversight when they were last reburied, in 1975. No one bothered to note exactly where he was interred.

Radar equipment used to locate the bodies of murder victims is being used in the hunt. It should pinpoint the spot where Adam lies in a wooden casket, encased in concrete. It is proposed to rebury the murderer's bones when the building of new headquarters is

completed. If the Crown Office approves, Adam will lie beneath the police station car park.

Adam, an army deserter, was sent to the gallows in 1835 with the command from the judge that he should be buried in unconsecrated ground "within the said Tolbooth prison at Inverness".

The last man to be hanged in public in Inverness, he was executed for the murder of his wife. The crime was committed in Millbuie, where Adam used to visit a mistress. His suspicious wife had insisted on accompanying him on the day she met her death.

Colin Sutherland, a former police inspector who has researched the case, said: "I think the reason his remains have been moved about so much is that the judge's order still has legal authority."

But Sheila MacKay, chairman of Inverness Local History Forum, said it was time that Adam "was finally left to lie in peace".



Anthony Sawoniuk, left, and Fedor Zan yesterday

Lords put curbs on quarrying

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of quarrying rights are to be subject to new environmental regulations after a ruling in the House of Lords yesterday. The change could lead to many proposed workings being dropped, to the delight of conservationists.

Quarry concessions dating back to 1947 to extract sand, gravel, rock, peat and other minerals will be subject to modern impact assessments. Some 5,000 quarrying and extraction permissions are expected to be affected. Many sites are likely to be considered too costly to develop.

Yesterday's ruling centred on old rights to quarry at Preston-under-Scar, North Yorkshire. Efforts by a landowner to re-register his historic rights to open a quarry had been opposed by two local residents.

The dispute went to the Lords who ruled that old quarry permissions should be subject to a European Union directive on environmental impact assessments.

Help for the drunks aged 12

By A CORRESPONDENT

PUPILS who arrive at school with hangovers are to be offered counselling. The initiative follows a growing number of teachers reporting children as young as 12 with obvious signs of alcohol excess.

West Lothian Council is working with the region's drug and alcohol project on a £20,000 scheme that will provide counselling and advice to children involved in drinking or substance misuse.

Teachers in the region's schools will receive training in how to talk to pupils about the dangers of drink, drugs and cigarettes. Pupils who persist will be referred to the education authority's drugs and alcohol unit for professional help.

Yesterday a teacher at Deans Community High School, in Livingston, West Lothian, said: "I've seen children as young as 12 arrive late on a Monday hungover and unable to learn anything. It is a much bigger problem than drugs."

The campaign will also help children from families with alcohol or drug problems.

Grand Prix boss hits hedge hitch

By PETER GLEESON

THE motor racing magnate Sir Frank Williams has amassed a £50 million fortune by making cars go faster. But his attempts to widen the driveway to his £3 million country estate look unlikely to get off the starting grid.

The parish council and neighbours of Sir Frank, head of the Williams grand prix team, say that his plans to remove an 800ft hedge will ruin a vital ecosystem for birds and insects.

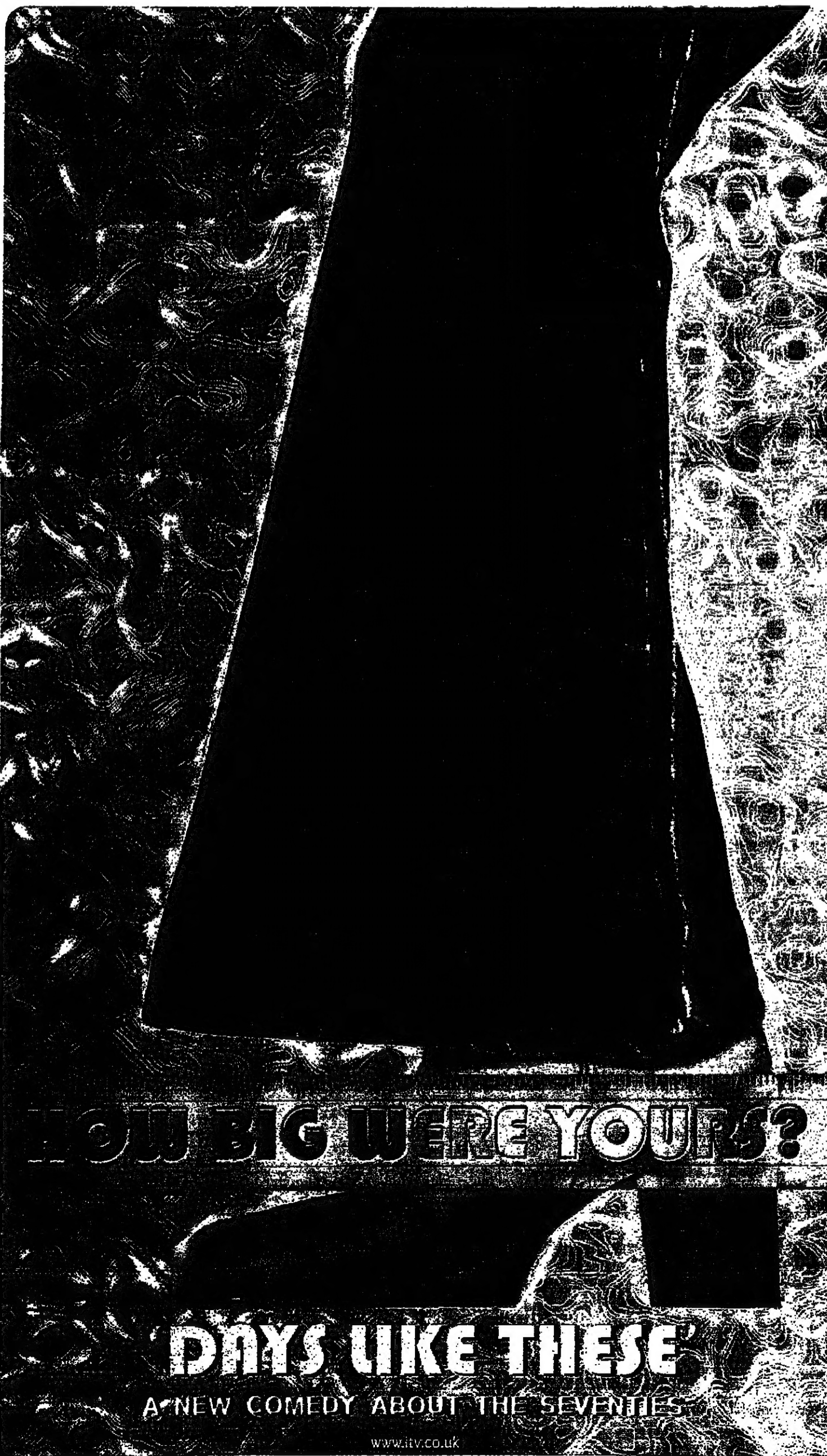
The hedge would have to go to improve the 6ft-wide driveway at his home in Hungerford, Berkshire. Philip Gardener, a parish councillor, said its removal would be opposed when the planning committee meets next month. "A hedge should never be taken out. It sounds quite old and is probably a significant environment for birds and insects."



Williams said hedge "not of historic significance"

This seems a flimsy reason for damaging the ecosystem," Mr Gardener said.

In the removal notice lodged with the council, Sir Frank said the hedge was "not thought to be of historic significance or important". The Williams team declined to comment yesterday.



HOW BIG WERE YOURS?

DAYS LIKE THESE

A NEW COMEDY ABOUT THE SEVENTIES

www.itv.co.uk

TV FROM THE HEART

itv

Tonight
8.30pm

051 77 11 27

Art lover who never forgot his British roots

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

PAUL MELLON, the late, great American Anglophile, has left huge gifts to the US National Gallery and the British art centre that he founded at Yale University, as well as a string of bequests to British institutions including the Royal Academy of Arts and his old Cambridge college.

The billionaire philanthropist, who died on February 1 at the age of 91, also reflected his passion for horse racing, which gave the world the cele-

brated Derby winner Mill Reef, by providing for his horses and leaving millions of dollars to British racing charities.

The principal beneficiary of Mr Mellon's will, which was made public yesterday, was the National Gallery that his father, the industrialist, three-time Treasury Secretary and US Ambassador to Britain, Andrew Mellon, established on the Washington Mall in 1933.

It is to receive £46 million and more than 100 works from Mr Mellon's collection of French and American art, which are worth many times the cash gift.

The works include two oils by van Gogh — *Still Life of Oranges and Lemons with Blue Gloves* (1899) and *Green Wheat Fields, Auvers* (1890) — as well as 13 by Seurat, 10 by Bonnard and pieces by Cézanne, Braque, Delacroix, Monet and Renoir.

Like most of the objects bequeathed by the will, however, the paintings will remain with his widow, Rachel "Bunny" Lambert Mellon, until her death. She received £67.5 million, as well as her husband's best American abstract works.

Mr Mellon's collection of some 130 pieces of British art went to the Yale Center for British Art, which he set up in 1977, along with another cash gift of £46 million.

"It is one of the great benefactions," Patrick McCaughey, the centre's director, said. "The Yale centre will be a self-sustained institution virtually in perpetuity. The second thing is that Mr Mellon is a great and avid collector of British sporting pictures. In many ways, the greatest British sporting pictures were with him and will come to us."

Mr Mellon also asked that the "founder's room" be set aside in the building for personal items, many of which demonstrated his life-long attachment to Britain. They include a pair of bookends given to him by Oxford University; a horse-shoe worn by Mill Reef in the 1971 Epsom Derby; and



Paul Mellon, viewing *Dressed Ballet Dancer* by Degas at a Washington exhibition, made bequests to Cambridge, Clare College, the Royal Academy



Mr Mellon, Geoff Lewis and Mill Reef at the 1971 Derby

"the two emblazoned Clare College Boat Club oars won by me at Cambridge".

Mr Mellon was the son of Nora McMullen, an English brewer's daughter whom his father met on a transatlantic crossing. He was born in Pennsylvania but christened in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. His youth overshadowed by his parents' divorce, he went to school in America but spent many summers with

his mother's family near Windsor. At Yale, he became an aficionado of British arts and letters, and returned to Britain in 1929 to study history at Clare College, where he rowed and developed a love of fox hunting. During the war he served in the London bureau of the Office of Strategic Services, the American intelligence agency run by his brother-in-law, David Bruce.

Always impeccably dressed

and modest to a fault, he acted as the perfect English gentleman and in 1974 received an honorary knighthood. In his will, Mr Mellon remembers many of the British institutions that shaped his life.

Cambridge University receives £4.9 million and Clare College £3 million. The university's vice-chancellor, Professor Sir Alec Broers, said: "We were saddened to learn of Paul Mellon's death and it is partic-

ularly moving to know that he has remembered Cambridge in his will."

Among other British beneficiaries are the Royal Academy of Arts and the National Trust for Historic Preservation with £3 million each; the Apprentice School Charitable Trust of the British Racing School with £1.5 million; the Royal Veterinary College with £600,000; and the Animal Health Trust of Newmarket with £300,000.

Among other British beneficiaries are the Royal Academy of Arts and the National Trust for Historic Preservation with £3 million each; the Apprentice School Charitable Trust of the British Racing School with £1.5 million; the Royal Veterinary College with £600,000; and the Animal Health Trust of Newmarket with £300,000.

American collector's tastes were ahead of his time

Richard Cork on some of the artists championed by Paul Mellon

OF ALL the great American art collectors, Paul Mellon had the most discerning appetite for British painting. While buying the choicest Impressionists, and Americans as outstanding as Winslow Homer or Mark Rothko, he also hunted out far less familiar work by overlooked British artists of the past.

His taste was so catholic, and in many respects ahead of his time, that he helped to transform everyone's notions about the achievements of our national school. I still remember the impact of the Royal Academy's 1964 exhibition, *Painting in England*.

1700-1850, drawn exclusively from Paul Mellon's then fast-growing collection. It opened our eyes to the merits of unsung artists: John Hamilton Mortimer's piercing yet affectionate portrait of Mrs Lushington; Francis Danby's romantic vision of the woods near Clifton; or Francis Wheatley's shamelessly erotic *Girls Bathing by a Waterfall*.

All these paintings, and many others besides, now enjoy a permanent home in the Yale Center for British

Art. The building has just reopened after extensive renovation with a trio of exhibitions devoted to Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud and Henry Moore. Mellon's collection, though, surveys the entire history of British painting with a sweep second only to the Tate Gallery. Constable is seen at his thunderous best in a luminous, cloud-swept panorama of Hadleigh Castle and its sunlit coastal setting; Turner is represented in all his astonishing variety, from the Claude-in-

spired painting of Lake Avernus to a late, near-abstract canvas called *Stormy Sea Breaking on a Shore*.

If one painter can be said to sum up Mellon's love of British art, it is George Stubbs. Instinctively drawn to Stubbs through his involvement with horse racing, Mellon purchased key examples of his work. Nothing could be more spectacular than Stubbs's early showpiece of animal ferocity, *Lion Attacking a Horse*. But Mellon also acquired a quiet, tender

painting of a zebra isolated in a forest, and his sense of humour prompted him to buy Stubbs's portrait of a stranded white poodle looking woe-begone on a boat.

In London, we have special reason to thank this outstanding philanthropist. He established the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, which has revolutionised serious historical research into the subject. Based in Bedford Square, the centre supports the preparation and printing of books on British artists that would otherwise be commercially impossible to publish on a grand scale.



The spectacular early Stubbs, *Lion Attacking a Horse*

Freedom of choice is everyone's right. Use it wisely!



Of course you can follow the crowd and drive in one of those cars everybody seems to drive. But since you have a choice, why not consider changing to the Cadillac Seville?

You'll get empowering technology with the convincing performance of a 32-valve 305 bhp Northstar V8 combined with sophisticated safety features and technical innovations that give you control whatever the driving situation.

Enjoy the elegant, expressive Cadillac Styling with an award-winning interior and innovative comfort features. All these features and scores more are standard. That's what we call a wise choice.

We invite you to test drive a Seville at your nearest Cadillac Retailer or call 08 45-6 01 21 21

On the road price £ 39,925.00



Cadillac

<http://www.cadillac-europe.com>

Not such a gay day at the Townswomen's Guild



Time to listen: guild members at the talk yesterday. "It was interesting but I can't really get to grips with the whole idea," one of them said later

Elizabeth Judge on thoroughly modern delegates' reaction to tales of being a lesbian parent

MANY of them were born in the days when "gay" usually meant light-hearted and happy. Yesterday some of the implications of its modern meaning left them looking less than cheerful.

It was the day that members of the Townswomen's Guilds decided it was time to learn about lesbian parenting.

The guilds are perhaps best known for activities such as dances and tapestry, but they are determined to keep up with the times. They have been on the Internet for two years, and recently voted overwhelmingly in favour of using cannabis for medicinal purposes. Yesterday, however, may have been a step too far.

Two hundred women had travelled from all over the country for a one-day confer-

ence on *The Family "Myth & Kin"*, where a main speaker was the gay rights activist Angela Mason. Rows of greying-haired women with rouged cheeks and gold-rimmed spectacles peered intently as she began to talk about married life for lesbians.

A silence filled the room and many an eyebrow was raised as she described her own experience with her partner of 28 years and their daughter. One delegate in a navy cardigan played nervously with her pearl necklace. A frail-looking lady in a grey skirt and pink blouse had a puzzled look as Ms Mason discussed artificial insemination.

Even those who had talked beforehand about their willingness to embrace a variety of ideas looked uncomfortable.



Mason: "We can learn from each other"

Some responded with blank gazes to Ms Mason's jokes, such as about the risk of her daughter "catching" lesbianism.

Many of the audience were from a generation that had lived and coped admirably through decades of huge social change, but some admitted being stunned by the 40-minute talk. Veronica Hammond, 63, a guild member for 20 years, said: "It was a real eye-opener

for a lot of people and would have shocked them. A lot of people won't agree with what Angela said. It's because we grew up in such a different society."

Doreen Bayman, 69, said: "She didn't really impress me. It was interesting to listen to her speaking but I can't really get to grips with the whole idea. The society we live in now is very different from the one I grew up in."

Sandra Yeoman, 42, from Dorset, said: "You don't associate the guild with lesbians. It's a delicate subject. We've got a fuddy-duddy image and really we steer away from anything that might offend. But I think you have to live and let live."

There was praise from Lona Murray, 77, who thought that Ms Mason had been brave: "She made me realise that I have to be more tolerant. She came over as being very human and really made me think."

Ms Mason, executive director of the lobby group Stone-

wall, said that she had enjoyed addressing the women: "They all listened attentively and sympathetically, although I have no doubt they disagreed with much of what was said. We can learn from each other."

The conference also included an address from the Tory MP George Howarth on aspects of government policy on families, and speakers on step-families, one-parent families and grandparents.

With the guilds now celebrating their 70th anniversary, many members feel that it is important to discuss modern issues to attract younger members. Marjory Hall, 71, the national chairman, said: "We have got to move forward in our outlook. Part of that involves keeping up to date with current affairs. We have to be willing to listen and to be tolerant."

Joan Corlett, 68, chairman of the Wirral federation, said: "We lead the way. We were talking about today's issues before any of the politicians. We've got a lot of clout."

Farmers warned on safety after spot checks

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS were yesterday told to improve safety standards, after inspectors uncovered hundreds of failings in 4,000 spot checks.

The most common lapse was inadequately guarded machinery, in particular unprotected drive shafts in which clothing could become entangled. In one case last year, a farmworker had to sever his arm with a penknife after it became trapped in machinery.

The Health and Safety Executive's checks on farming and forestry businesses in England, Scotland and Wales took place in the late summer and early autumn of last year.

David Matney, chief agricultural inspector for the executive, said: "There is a glimmer of hope following the blitz exercise. More people are taking an interest in health and safety, but I would like to see this reflected in fewer fatal injuries."

Farm accidents claimed 188 lives in the past two years, making agriculture the most dangerous industry in Britain. There are about 2,300 serious injuries a year reported on farms. The total, including those unreported, could be 10,000.

"Inspectors found defects that needed an enforcement notice in 723 cases," Mr Matney said. "More than half of these were prohibition notices served to stop immediately a dangerous practice that had a risk of serious injury."

"The executive also started a number of prosecutions that involved a total of 22 separate charges. This means that the executive's formal enforcement powers were used on farms at virtually one in five visits inspectors made."

Inspectors are particularly anxious to improve the safety of children. Over the past 12 years 69 have been killed in agricultural accidents.

"Inspectors issued no fewer than 80 notices dealing with child protection relating to sturly lagoon and grain pits," Mr Matney said.

When confronted with their shortcomings, farmers typically responded that they had not been aware of the danger but thanked the inspectors for pointing it out. Mr Matney said.

Twins see what a difference DNA makes

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FORENSIC scientists have set themselves the challenge of trying to detect genetic differences between a pair of apparently identical twins.

Orlando and Tristram Elmhurst look alike, share the same interests, friends, likes and dislikes, and the same mannerisms. Conveniently, they also both work in forensic science. Orlando is a project manager for the Forensic Science Service, which is conducting the research, while his brother is director of forensic services with West Mercia police.

Although even their wives have trouble telling them apart, the pair, who were born in Bermuda in 1957, have always believed that they are non-identical twins.

The DNA samples, taken from mouth swabs, should settle the question. If they are identical twins, the DNA profiles should show no differences since identical twins come from one egg that is split in two, and share identical genes. If they are non-identical twins who happen to look the same, there will be clear differences.

Tristram said: "If the DNA does not match, then we are just two individuals who look alike and share the same interests. Is it nature or nurture? That's the big question. We

are now awaiting the results." The study is part of a joint project by the Forensic Science Service and West Mercia police designed to increase the clear-up rate for burglaries by improving understanding and awareness of DNA tests and their part in analysis of crime scenes.

The brothers' collaboration is causing confusion at West Mercia police headquarters. Tristram said: "People who know me at force headquarters think I am very rude by ignoring them, but they don't realise it is my brother, who doesn't know them. It is causing a lot of confusion."

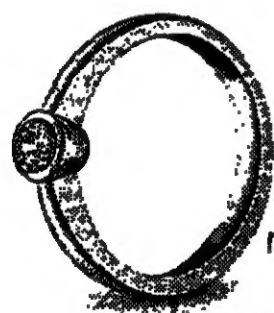
Tristram is a father of two and Orlando has four children, including non-identical twins. The only obvious visible difference between the pair is that Orlando is an inch taller than his 5ft 7in brother.

Both began their careers as scenes of crime officers with the Metropolitan Police and later they worked together as senior officers with Leicestershire police.

"That was fun," Tristram said. "We could easily tell if people were trying to spin us a line or playing one of us off against the other. Because we knew each other so well, we immediately knew if what we were being told about the other one was true."



Seeing double: Tristram, left, and Orlando Elmhurst



On Valentine's Day,

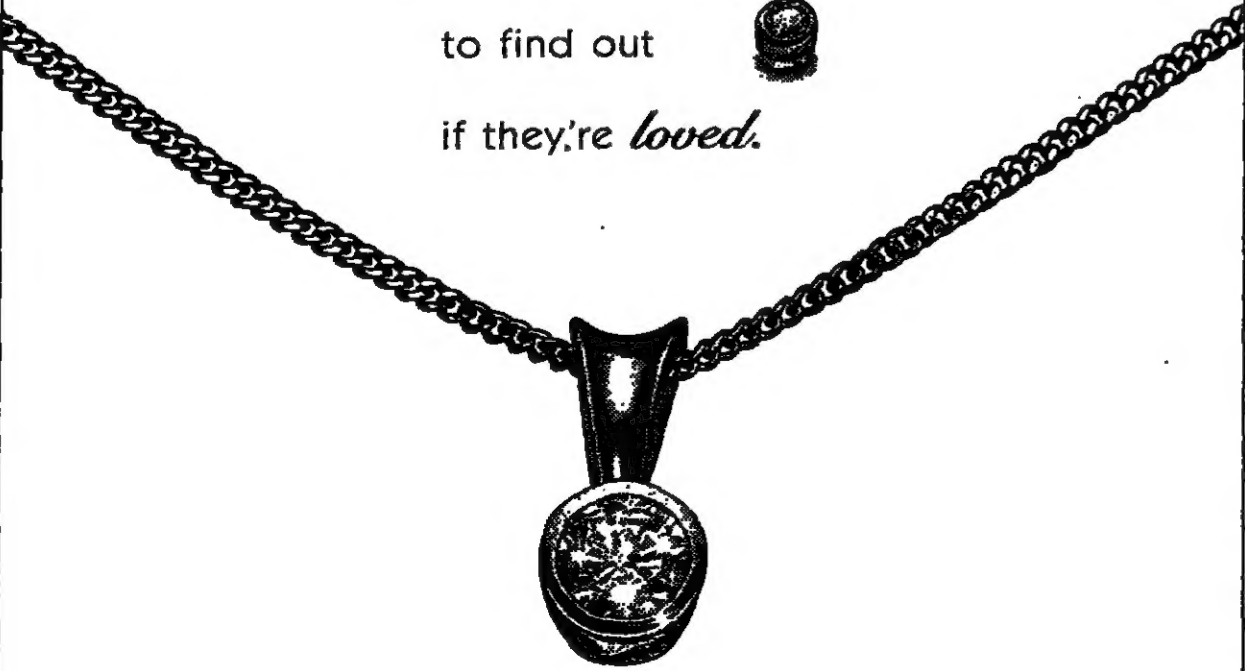
who really wants

to pull the petals

off a daisy

to find out

if they're loved.



Ernest Jones

You create the moment,
we create the magic.

15 CT WHITE GOLD QUARTER CARAT DIAMOND RING £499. 9 CT WHITE GOLD QUARTER CARAT (TOTAL WEIGHT) DIAMOND EARRINGS £149. 9 CT WHITE GOLD QUARTER CARAT DIAMOND PENDANT & CHAIN £299. SELECTED STORES ARE OPEN ON SUNDAYS. FOR DETAILS OF OVER 155 STORES NATIONWIDE, FREEPHONE 0800 389 5958.

More free

with your

Lloyds Bank or TSB

current account

free direct debit benefit

You could receive up to £100 a month for 3 months to help with your direct debit payments if you're unable to work because of accident or sickness - absolutely free.

free debit card purchase protection

Protects most purchases made with your Lloyds Bank or TSB debit card against loss, theft or accidental damage for up to 30 days from the date of purchase - absolutely free.

free accidental death benefit

You could qualify for up to £10,000 worth of cover giving extra security to your family in the event of your death - absolutely free.

For details of how to register for these three benefits simply contact your local branch of Lloyds Bank or TSB. We can make this and more happen for you.



Lloyds TSB

Direct debit benefit is payable from 90 days after the first day you are unable to work. To qualify, you must pay at least three of the following household bills by direct debit - water, gas, electricity, council tax, telephone.

30 day debit card purchase protection does not cover all goods or all circumstances.

You may qualify for £5,000 worth of accidental death benefit if your main income is paid directly into your current account and a further £5,000 worth of cover if you pay at least £20 per month by standing order from your current account into a Lloyds Bank or TSB branch based savings account. Certain age restrictions apply.

Contact your branch for full details of the Terms and Conditions and to find out how to register.

General insurance advice is provided by Lloyds TSB Insurance Services Limited which acts as an independent intermediary for a number of insurers under the Association of British Insurers' Code of Practice. Registered in England No 968406. Registered Office: 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS. Lloyds TSB is a brand name of Lloyds Bank Plc, TSB Bank plc and TSB Bank Scotland plc. Lloyds Bank Plc. Registered Office: 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS. Registered in England and Wales Number 2065. TSB Bank plc. Registered Office: 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS. Registered in England and Wales Number 1009268. TSB Bank Scotland plc. Registered Office: Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4JH. Registered in Scotland Number 95237.

www.lloydstsb.co.uk

Beckett to give England a voice

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

MARGARET BECKETT took the first step yesterday to setting up a Commons committee designed to give England a distinct voice in Parliament after Scottish and Welsh devolution.

The Commons leader asked the Modernisation Select Committee to consider reviving the former Standing Committee on Regional Affairs. It will almost certainly back the idea.

Senior backbenchers believe the committee, which all English MPs would be entitled to attend, would be a way of handling some of the stresses and strains imposed by devolution. Ministers believe that letting Scottish and Welsh MPs vote on purely English legislation will look increasingly out of date.

There is growing support among some Conservative MPs for an English parliament. Although the Tory leadership opposes the idea, influential MPs are privately canvassing the idea of cutting the numbers of Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland MPs at Westminster and ending their power to vote on English affairs.

New Labour resorts to old tricks in Wales

TONY BLAIR'S new Labour campaign machine has resorted to Old Labour tricks in a last-ditch attempt to secure the election of Alun Michael, his personal choice, as party leader in Wales.

With just a week to go before the count, the leadership contest between the Welsh Secretary and Rhodri Morgan, MP for Cardiff West, is emerging as a dirty and closely-fought campaign.

Mr Morgan's supporters claim that the Labour Party machine cannot accept their candidate's overwhelming popularity with the public.

The decision on the Welsh Labour leadership will be announced Cardiff on February 20, but Mr Morgan's team claims the party machine is now trying to "stitch up" the proportional representation lists to select 20 candidates for the assembly so that those chosen will back Mr Michael.

However, three of the five areas putting forward PR lists have embarrassed Mr Michael by rejecting the rankings. His team has responded by claiming Mr Morgan's side

Campaign turns dirty as Blair's team battles to get its man elected, writes Valerie Elliott

is also using "dirty tricks". They say Mr Morgan's success in getting Unison's support — he won 7,101 votes against 2,557 for Mr Michael — was based on votes from Plaid Cymru and Socialist Worker Party members desperate to inflict "a bloody nose" on Mr Blair's man and embarrass the Government.

However, the Transport and General Workers' Union, led in Wales by George Wright, has plumped for Mr Michael, and the boilermakers' union, the GMB, is also expected to back him.

But the final count will now be extremely close: Welsh MPs predict the victor will be decided on a margin of less than 5 per cent of the vote.

Some 40 assembly candidates have already been selected for constituency seats, and of those Mr Morgan claims that 27 will vote for him. How-

ever, Mr Michael claims he has 26 of the 34 MPs and Mr Morgan four with the rest undeclared.

Anita Gale, chairman of the Welsh Labour Party executive, denies the PR lists are being "stitched up" to bolster Mr Michael, but in typical old Labour fashion the selection procedure itself is complex and cumbersome. For each seat an inner committee of three members of the Welsh executive, two National Executive members, and two party officials listens to five-minute presentations from any candidate wishing to appear on the list. The committee proposes a ranking of four and it is then put to the vote before 24 members in the Euro-constituency on which it is based. The 24 can approve or reject the list and cannot alter the ranking.

In North Wales and South Wales the PR lists were undisputed. But in South Wales Central, South Wales East, and in Mid and West Wales the lists were rejected twice. The matter has to be decided tomorrow by the Welsh Labour executive, which is expected to rubber-stamp the rankings put forward by the inner committee. This would give Mr Michael 13 votes and Mr Morgan three.

Leading article, page 23



Head to head: Alun Michael, left, and Rhodri Morgan, right, make their points on the hustings in Swansea

No 10 orders policy freeze

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

long-term care for the elderly, the draft Bill on Freedom of Information, the reorganisation of NHS pay, plans to extend access to the countryside, and proposals to clamp down on benefit fraud.

The long-awaited White Paper on the Child Support Agency looks likely to be delayed. Similarly affected are plans to regulate the private security industry and a draft Bill on party political funding.

Ministers may also decide to hold back more controversial documents such as a White Paper on the part-privatisation of London Underground and a draft Bill on the self-off of the air traffic service.

By the time MPs return after the Easter recess, the official campaigns for the Scottish parliament, Welsh assembly and local government elections, all on May 6, will be under way. Within a week the campaign will start for the European elections on June 10.

The effective freeze on policy-making will add to increasing grumbles about the lack of government action on policy issues. There will also be a question mark over the time left on either side of the long summer recess, to publish consultation papers for legislation in the Queen's Speech in November.

The Cabinet has recently had its first discussion and it is likely that there will be Bills next year on: access to the countryside, the regulation of the private security industry, freedom of information, pension reform to introduce the second state pension, the self-off of the air traffic service, the part-privatisation of London Underground, criminal justice, a Food Standards Agency, measures to allow local councils to hold local referendums and party political funding.

Politicians spooked by nationalist apparition

A spectre is haunting Britain — the spectre of English nationalism. Merely to paraphrase *The Communist Manifesto* shows its absurdity. Like the Loch Ness monster, the threat of English nationalism is more discussed than sighted.

Yet politicians of all parties are nervous about the reaction in England to Scottish and Welsh devolution. After all, the plans were devised without any thought to the implications for England.

Before the 1997 election Tony Blair recognised this gap and two separate policies were produced. John Prescott and Richard Caborn devised what have become regional development agencies, centrally appointed and financed.

Jack Straw proposed a step-by-step plan for regional government, starting with regional chambers (linking local councils and business) and then, via regional referendums, to elected assemblies. The Prescott/Caborn plan is up and running and, while there will be no legislation on regional government before the election, there have already been moves in the North East and, tentatively, in the West Midlands to set up voluntary bodies.

However, for the next decade, if not longer, devolution will be asymmetrical. The absence of a clearcut federal structure, as in, say, the USA or Germany, means that English and Scottish MPs will be in a different position — the West Lothian question. The Government has tried to brush it aside.

Short of a full federal structure, the question is unanswerable, which does not, of course, mean that answers will not be sought. One is to remove Scotland's over-representation at Westminster. The next review of constituency boundaries in five or six years will give Scottish seats the same number of voters as English ones, reducing the number of MPs from Scotland from 72 to 57.

The Government has already suggested that a reformed second chamber should be linked to devolved and regional bodies, both in membership and function.



Peter RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

Margaret Beckett yesterday offered an English response for the Commons by proposing a revival of the Standing Committee on Regional Affairs that last met in 1978. This would consist of all English MPs and would be able to discuss issues such as development agencies, regional economies and transport. Ministers might also be questioned, but there would be no binding votes. But the underlying contrast in the constitutional position of Scottish and English MPs would not be addressed.

In face of devolution and Labour's strength in Scotland and Wales, some Tories have advocated an English parliament, partly, in some cases, in the hope that in most years they would have a majority.

Such talk alarms many in the leadership who fear that this will hasten the break-up of the Union rather than strengthen it, as the Tories have always urged. Sir Malcolm Rifkind, president of the Scottish Conservatives, and a veteran of devolution battles for 30 years, has instead suggested that when English legislation or policy is being addressed at Westminster, it should be left solely to English MPs. There are tricky problems of definition, and the issue is less pressing while Labour has a big majority in England alone.

Although the English question is hardly yet the real one, or big prize, that some Tories pretend, it will not go away. The immediate cause for tension is likely to be money and the resentment of English ministers at the much higher level of public spending per head in Scotland. No amount of committee debates will resolve that.



**Dolphin design it,
deliver it, and fit it.
All you do is
choose the style.**

With Dolphin's complete bathroom service absolutely everything is taken care of. From professional design through to delivery, plumbing, electrics, joinery and even tiling, Dolphin create an individual bathroom to your exact needs. And right now not only are many bathroom suites half price, but Dolphin also give you £150 trade-in discount and you've nothing to repay until summer. Make it Dolphin, and make it easy on yourself.



OUR MOST POPULAR
BATHROOM SUITES NOW
HALF PRICE

PLUS

**£150 TRADE-IN
DISCOUNT ON YOUR OLD BATHROOM**

NOTHING TO REPAY

until summer 1999*

OVER 150 LOCAL
SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

TALK TO YOURS DIRECT ON

0345 00 11 22

OPEN 7 DAYS MON - FRI: 10.00 - 5.30, SAT: 9.00 - 5.30, SUN: 11.00 - 5.00

Dolphin Fitted Bathrooms

Sawyer's new post

LORD SAWYER of Darlington, Labour's general secretary from 1994-98, has joined the growing band of party officials to take jobs in the private sector. Lord Sawyer, a key figure in the modernisation of the party, is to be a non-executive director of Reed Executive, the recruitment organisation, on a three-year contract to work one day a week for nearly £20,000 per annum.

SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S RELEASE

1950-1971 British MILITARY BANK NOTES

Collector's set of 7 notes includes the military equivalent of the Scarce White Fiver

Before our hoard of notes was found they sold for £2,000 plus!!! We can now release each complete set including the Uncirculated £5 for only £9.95. These notes were used after World War II to protect the British Pound in Military Bases in Germany, Egypt, Austria, Japan, Malta, Aden and Singapore.

The complete set comprises the seven different notes issued 1950-1971 and they are all in Uncirculated condition for just £9.95.

Ancient & modern coins, banknotes and antiques from Britain and the World. Send for our Illustrated catalogue. You will be delighted or return within 30 days for immediate refund. Allow up to 14 days for delivery.

COINCRAFT (Dept TIMS90212) 45 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LU (Opposite the British Museum)

ACCESS/VISA/AMEX PHONE ORDERS 0171 636 1188 FAX 0171 323 2660

To: COINCRAFT, 45 Great Russell St, London WC1B 3LU
Please send me quantity _____ Set of 7 British Military notes at £9.95 per set inc. p&g.
I enclose Cheque/PO for £ _____ made payable to COINCRAFT or my Mastercard/Visa/Amex
No. is _____
Exp. Date _____ Signature _____
NAME Mr/Ms/Ms _____
Address _____
Post Code _____
Please tick one box: ☐ I am a collector ☐ I am a dealer

ency's la
ost old a
ck millio

Men deadl

8 %
0845 845 4000

...bins de
...le in P
...ood scar

...can show

Complete
home system.

Completely
amazing price.

BUY NOW—PAY LATER

DELL

Fabius defends role in Paris blood scandal

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

LAURENT FABIOUS, the former French Prime Minister, brushed aside allegations of manslaughter against him yesterday as he sought to distance himself from the scandal over HIV-contaminated blood.

Displaying the poise and intellectual precision that once made him the golden boy of Gallic politics, M. Fabius, 52, said he had been kept away from the unfolding Aids tragedy by technocrats concerned at "the cost of each life saved".

In front of the 12 MPs and three magistrates who are his judges, the defendant testified that he let officials take the day-to-day decisions which led to the distribution of blood products tainted by HIV, the Aids-related virus.

The former Prime Minister is accused, along with two former Health Ministers, Edmond Hervé, 55, and Georgina Dufoux, 36, of criminal negligence in delaying the introduction of Aids screening tests for blood products because of commercial reasons.

The two ministers are also accused of failing to halt blood donations in prisons, and of failing to ensure the sterilisation of products known to be contaminated.

Yesterday in Paris, as he became the first French Prime Minister to face a courtroom interrogation for more than 50

years, M. Fabius gave a rare show of emotion when his hands trembled briefly at the start of his evidence, but soon recovered his composure.

Among haemophiliacs or patients given transfusions of untreated blood, 4,333 contracted Aids and about 1,000 have died.

The defendant described to the specially constituted Court of Justice of the Republic the role of Prime Minister, concluding that he was more a referee than a player. He had acted as soon as officials had alerted him to the Aids risks, he said.

His argument was that he stood above the debate in French government circles that resulted in a scheme to delay a pioneering US-made screening test until a rival French version was on the market.

"I was not the leader of the orchestra in some plot," said the man who became France's youngest ever Prime Minister when he was appointed by the late President Mitterrand in 1984. He was asked whether he took responsibility for the decisions of his officials, but dodged the answer and was not pressed.

The court was shown a handwritten memorandum from Louis Schweitzer, then the Prime Minister's private

secretary and now chairman of the car maker, Renault.

In the note, from 1985, M. Schweitzer denounced plans to spend between Fr200 million (£21.5 million) and Fr400 million on Aids tests for blood donors. "Can you imagine the cost of each life saved in this way?" he scribbled.

The Prime Minister did nothing to stop this line of thought, but neither did he do anything to encourage it, the court was told.

Instead, he gave free rein to the highly qualified and highly paid technocrats who dominate the French government apparatus.

In a second memorandum from 1985, another member of M. Fabius's private Cabinet, François Gros, said the weight of public opinion had overcome government reticence over the expense of Aids screening tests. But he added that "astute management" of the timetable — in other words, delaying tactics — would enable the French firm, Pasteur, to capture a large slice of the market at the expense of American competitors.

"I am in favour," M. Fabius wrote. Yesterday he claimed he had simply meant to express approval for automatic Aids screening for donors.



Chilled white wine: A grower trims vines in a snow-covered vineyard in the Ahr valley near Dernau, south of Bonn, yesterday as a cold snap gripped most of northern Europe

Habibie favours free East Timor

Jakarta: Indonesia's President Habibie is in favour of independence for the former Portuguese colony of East Timor and wants a settlement by next January to end the burden on the rest of his country, he said. "If the Government should be asked for a suggestion on East Timor, my suggestion is, just give East Timor independence," he told representatives of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"We do not want to be burdened by the problem of East Timor as of January 1, 2000." Last month the Government made a surprise announcement that it would propose independence for East Timor, which Indonesia invaded in 1975, if the people rejected an offer of autonomy. (AFP)

Amazon boat deaths

Brasilia: At least three people were killed and 60 to 70 were missing after a boat carrying 150 passengers capsized on a river in the Brazilian Amazon, police said. The accident occurred on the Madeira river, 372 miles from the state capital, Manaus. Unconfirmed reports said passengers watching a televised football match on the upper deck tilted the vessel while cheering a goal and that the vessel was overloaded. (Reuters)

Nazi loot returned

Vienna: The Austrian Ministry of Culture has ordered state museums to return a multimillion-pound collection of 250 art treasures to the successors of Louis and Clarice Rothschild, 51 years after they were looted by the Nazis and then illegally retained by the postwar Austrian Government (Nigel Glass writes). These are the first objects to be returned under a law enacted last November.

The art of escape

Oslo: Police are hunting Paal Enger, who was serving a six-year prison sentence for stealing *The Scream*, right, by Edvard Munch. Enger escaped during an educational trip to Oslo International Airport. The painting, a Norwegian national treasure, was stolen in 1994 but recovered undamaged with the aid of Scotland Yard. Enger has recently appeared in a television advertisement as an "art expert". (AP)



Ranking royal

Madrid: Spain's Crown Prince Felipe, 31, has been freed from the need to sit exams to gain promotion as an officer in the armed services (Giles Tremlett writes). A special law passed by parliament cleared the way for him to rise through the ranks without having to compete with others and the press speculated that the Government might elevate him directly to the rank of general.

Through glass darkly

Jerusalem: Suggesting a possible change in its interrogation methods, the Israeli Shin Bet security service this week covered detainees' eyes only with dark sunglasses rather than the customary urine-drenched hoods, a lawyer said. She said a client told her of the new practice. Israel's Supreme Court has been hearing an appeal against Shin Bet interrogation methods by human rights groups and detainees. (AP)

Mountain snow is dynamited to cut avalanche risk

FROM SUSAN BELL IN CHAMONIX

THE BODY of a young woman killed in Tuesday's avalanche in the French Alps was found by rescue workers yesterday morning, bringing the death toll to 11.

A man believed to have shared the same chalet is still missing. A spokesman for the emergency services said there was now no hope of finding him alive.

Their deaths make this week's disaster in the villages of Le Tour and Montroc, near Chamonix, France's

worst avalanche since February 10, 1970, when a youth hostel in Val d'Isère was destroyed, killing 39 and injuring 40. Last year nine children and two adults were killed hiking off-piste.

The speculation that irresponsible property development had contributed to the disaster in which 20 chalets were destroyed was quashed by Pierre Breuil, the senior government representative of Haute Savoie.

"These houses were all in a white [no risk] zone. There hasn't been an avalanche of any kind down this particular corridor since 1908. We

thought the houses were safe," he said. Jean-Jack Quyeranne, the Deputy Interior Minister, who visited the scene on Wednesday, said the chalets had been built in the 1970s. "A 1991 map showing areas of risk established that a priori this region was risk-free," he said.

However, Jean-Claude Gin, of

Chamonix Gendarmerie, who led the massive rescue effort, noted that in the Alps there was no such thing as an area of zero risk. "The Chamonix valley is narrow, with over one hundred classified avalanche corridors. It is impossible to make everything safe," he said.

Weather experts reported yesterday that the risk of another serious avalanche was estimated to be four on a five-point scale. Arctic temperatures are slowing the rate at which the layers of snow are consolidating, increasing the threat of another serious avalanche over the next few days.

LINKS
www.chamonix.com — Official site for Chamonix resort with latest reports on weather
www.msa.org — Lists information on avalanches around the world.

Complete home system. Completely amazing price.

DELL DIMENSION™ V400c MULTIMEDIA

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor 400MHz
- 64MB 100MHz SDRAM RAM (upgradable to 384MB)
- 8.4GB ATA-33 Hard Disk
- 17" SVGA monitor (15.8" Viewable area, 0.28 dot pitch)
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Mini Tower Chassis
- 3 Year Comprehensive Service: year 1 on site, years 2 and 3 collect and return

DVD Entertainment System

- Harmon Kardon 30W Speakers
- Yamaha XG 64 Voice integrated soundcard
- ATI RAGE Pro AGP Graphics Accelerator
- 4.8x Toshiba DVD ROM & Software Decoding — digital quality movies on your PC

High speed Internet at your fingertips

- US Robotics 56Kb V90 Fax Modem
- FREE BT 30 day Internet Connection software (ext. phone charges)

High-quality Printer

- HP DeskJet 420c Colour Printer — bring your drawings, photos and presentations to life

12 Fantastic Software Titles

<p>BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Works Suite 99 • MS Word 97 • MS Works 4.5 • MS Works Calendar • MS Money 98 • MS Graphics Studio 98 • McAfee Anti-Virus Software 	<p>LEISURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FREE Dell GAMER ELITE Software Pack comprising: • RAGE Incoming • Microprose Civilization II • BLOOD Fight, Unlimited II • Need for Speed II Special Edition • MS AutoExpress 98 Europe • MS Encarta 98 World Atlas
--	---

BUY NOW — PAY LATER

Pay whole balance within 90 DAYS INTEREST FREE or alternatively pay by 36 monthly instalments (APR 26.9%). Repayment Example: PC Cash price £1,214.95 (inc. VAT & delivery). Pay 36 monthly payments of £46.76 APR 26.9%. Total amount repayable £1,683.48. Finance subject to status.

£999 (£1,214.95 inc. VAT & del)

DELL

TO ORDER ONLINE 24 HOURS
www.dell.com/uk/home

Set your HEART on NEW CENTRAL HEATING

INTEREST FREE PAYMENT OPTIONS ON NEW CENTRAL HEATING

New central heating from British Gas has never been more affordable or desirable.

- ♥ Spread the cost with interest free payment options*
- ♥ £200 cash-back from the Energy Savings Trust with a high efficiency condensing boiler
- ♥ FREE carbon monoxide detector with all new installations
- ♥ FREE Three Star Service Cover and no-quibble 12 month guarantee**
- ♥ Installed by expert engineers

CALL 0345 754 754
today for your free no-obligation quotation

Please complete, detach and post to:
British Gas, FREEPOST CV2909, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 9BR.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____

Address _____

County _____ Town _____

Postcode _____

Tel No (day) _____ Tel No (eve) _____

If you do not wish to be kept up to date with new products and services from British Gas or our carefully selected partners then please tick the box or let us know when you call.

British Gas

CLINTON: THE FINAL ACT

President spared by dithering Senate

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON is set to be acquitted today of the two articles of impeachment against him as Republican opposition crumbled, bringing a sudden end to the 386-day Monica Lewinsky scandal which threatened to destroy his presidency.

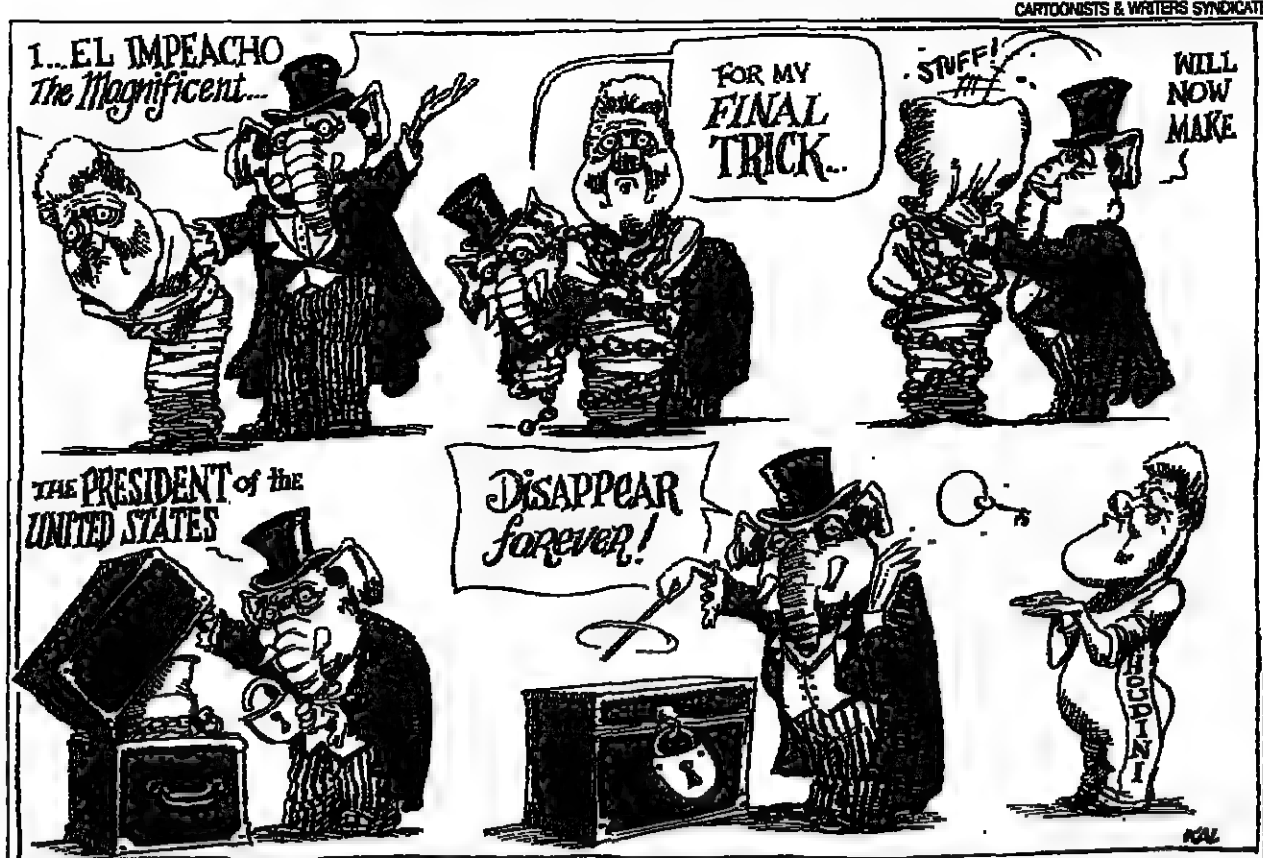
The White House was a "gloat-free zone", said Mr Clinton's advisers, denying reports that they were bent on revenge in next year's elections.

Joe Lockhart, the presidential spokesman, said it would be political folly for the White House to target the seats of the 13 managers of the House of Representatives who mounted the prosecution of Mr Clinton, and who failed in their attempt to remove him from office. But Clinton aides could barely conceal their jubilation and sense of vindication as it appeared that the President

might escape without even a Senate motion of censure. Yesterday, with 100 senators locked behind closed doors for the finale of the drama which has consumed the nation's politics, it appeared that they would muster only a letter reprimanding his behaviour.

As the waters began to close over one of the most extraordinary passages in American history, leaders of both parties said that the country's final verdict on the President's affair with the trainee who brought him pizza would not be apparent until after the 2000 elections.

But the inquiry into Mr Clinton's behaviour initiated by Kenneth Starr, special counsel which has cost more than \$40 million (£25 million), generated more than 60,000 pages of testimony, and dislodged conventional soap operas from



Kal's view in the *Baltimore Sun* of President Clinton's survival of the Republican attempts to conjure him away

the nation's television screens, has left both parties fearful about the fallout. Mr Starr's inquiries into the Lewinsky affair alone have cost \$4.4 million. Her legal fees exceed \$2 million, to be paid by her father, a Beverly Hills cancer specialist. Mr Clinton and his wife Hillary have incurred a staggering personal debt of more than \$9 million in personal legal expenses to rebut the Lewinsky, Paula Jones and Whitewater allegations.

The figure comes from a

new fund-raising appeal issued by the Clinton Legal Expense Trust. It is far beyond the President's total compensation or his family's net worth, said the trust's founder, David Pryor, a former senator.

On Capitol Hill, however, the House Judiciary Committee spent at least \$1 million pursuing its investigation of the articles of impeachment. The final reckoning is not in for the Senate trial.

It can be argued that senators would have been sitting

anyway. But their additional Saturday sessions have run up hefty extra bills for staff overtime, security and other costs. One specific waste of taxpayers' money was the \$260 spent by Republican leaders on two out-of-print editions of a book on impeachment by Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

If they had waited two weeks they could have bought new paperback copies for \$12. The cheapest item to have been accounted for in the scandal is the hat-pin Mr Clinton

gave Ms Lewinsky. Its value was appraised at \$3.

Last night, three Republican senators from the party's moderate northeastern wing looked set to vote against their colleagues: Arlen Specter from Pennsylvania, James Jeffords from Vermont and John Chafee from Rhode Island. But much of the pressure for the Senate to issue some form of formal rebuke came from Democrats who do not want voters to think that they have condoned the President's behaviour.

The master of comebacks is clear winner

The true verdict on the Lewinsky saga — and on Bill Clinton's presidency — will come with the elections in 2000. But as the Senate gathered yesterday to set the seal on the saga which has consumed politics for the past 386 days, many of the winners and losers were already clear.

The biggest winner is President Clinton, beyond dispute. True, he has become the second President in American history to be impeached. His affair with the young girl who brought him pizza will be his most eye-catching contribution to the history books. But he survived the three clamorous spikes of pressure to quit — in February last year, in August, and in October, setting in stone his reputation as the Comeback Kid.

The biggest loser? Newt Gingrich. Once, the firebrand from Georgia seemed like Mr Clinton's Republican doppelgänger. Southern, charismatic, with a personal life more turbulent than that of his colleagues, but with the drive to reform his party and force his agenda through. Democrats' unexpected success in the November elections brought down the guillotine on an already flagging political life. Kenneth Starr and the Office of the Independent Counsel also rank as losers.

If Congress votes to keep the Office in June — far from a certainty — it is likely to curtail its powers sharply. But Mr Starr still carries a hidden sting as he has warned, he can still pursue Mr Clinton with criminal indictments.

Democrats are noisily boasting that they are winners. Whether this is really true will be clear only in the 2000 elections. Fund-raising has stayed unexpectedly strong, and they stand a chance of regaining the House of Representatives. Lost to Gingrich's Republican revolutionaries in 1994 after 40 years of Democratic control.

But some Democrats also fear that without Mr Clinton's pragmatic centrism, forcing through many bitter compromises, the party will lack unity on the campaign trail. They also fear that while Vice-President Al Gore may appear to voters like a safe pair of hands, the comparison could also highlight his woodenness. So although Republicans in the

A final verdict must await the next elections, says Bronwen Maddox

House now appear to be losers, having sought to bring down the President and failed, they could draw strength from their setback by 2000. But they need quickly to find something resembling an agenda.

Mr Clinton neatly took advantage of their inaction by the saga to punch holes in their policies and the September budget and with the State of the Union address last month. The trickier calculation is whether American government itself will have changed from the past year.

There is a case for saying that the saga boosted the influence of the Cabinet, after years of waning. Mr Clinton would probably not have survived had his Cabinet not stood by their man, even though he had lied to them about the affair, and allowed them to go on television to repeat that lie.

But grandiose judgments that the scandal has caused lasting damage to public support for the Presidency and for Congress seem overstated. "The national government is not like a hotel room that you can occupy for a night and trash like a rock star," said William Glasson, a professor at the University of Maryland.

Politicians agree that the public is disillusioned with government. But some see that mood as a luxury of prosperity, rather than a reaction to Lewinsky. Whatever the cause, as the mid-term elections showed, voters still care intensely about local politics. That trend will strengthen the hand of big-state governors such as George W. Bush in Texas, the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination if he chooses to stand.

Politicians might consider it heresy, but one final possible verdict, looking back from 2000, is that the Lewinsky saga will have made little impact on the course of the nation's politics, for all the \$50 million spent and the hours of live television coverage.

star is bo
merica
winisky



Notice to
Halifax
borrowers.

COMET SALE MUST END SOON THE BEST OF THE BEST

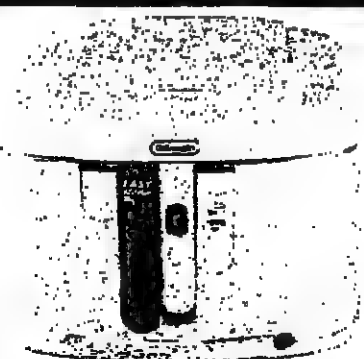
BEST VALUE PORTABLE MINIDISC



aiwa
PORTABLE MINIDISC & CD SYSTEM
● Create your own favourite albums by recording from CD on to MiniDisc
● Plays conventional CDs
● FM/MW digital radio
Model CSD MD5, was £299.99

SAVE £100 SALE £199.99
8 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

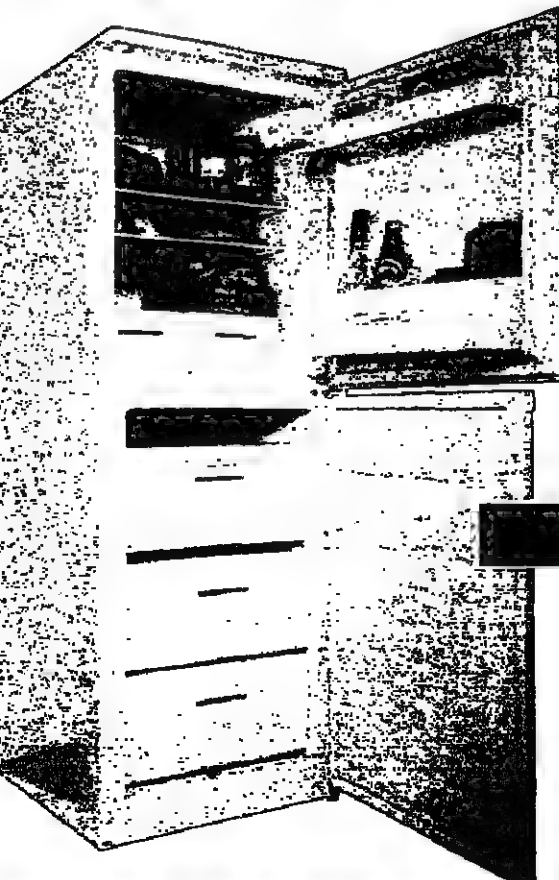
BEST VALUE TOP BRAND FRYER



DeLonghi
COOLWALL DEEP FAT FRYER
● 2 litre oil capacity
● Oil drainage tube
Model F760 was £59.99 sale £49.99

SAVE £17 SALE VOUCHER £42.99

BEST VALUE FRIDGE FREEZER



Kelvinator
3.6 GROSS CU.FT FRIDGE FREEZER
● 4.6/4.0 cu.ft fridge/freezer capacity
● Automatic defrost
Model KC13/12GB, was £249.99 sale £219.99

SAVE £50 SALE VOUCHER £199.99
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET



BEST VALUE TOP BRAND NICAM

TOSHIBA
21" NICAM STEREO TV WITH STAND
● 51cm visible screen
● 2 SCART sockets
Model 2173DB, was £259.99 previously £269.99, £279.99

SAVE £30 SALE £249.99



COMET
ORDER BY PHONE NOW
You can order any of these products over the phone. We'll deliver it to your home or workplace.*

0845 60 26638



WE'LL DELIVER 7 DAYS A WEEK
We guarantee delivery 7 days a week, and connection when we say we will, or you can get all your delivery and connection money back. We'll even take all the packaging away and dispose of your old appliance if you wish.*

WE PROMISE THE LOWEST PRICES

The Comet Price Promise guarantees that if you buy any product from Comet, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in store for full details.

Open today until 8pm. For local store details and all opening hours phone free on 0500 425 425

9p 6p 9p CHEAP CALLS FROM ONE.TEL

One.Tel offers lower cost international calls from your home or business phone, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is no pre-payment required and you don't even have to change telephone companies. Call us now to register on 0800 092 8988 between 8am-10pm, Mon. to Fri. or 9am-5pm Sat. and 10am-4pm Sun. Once you are registered simply dial 1878 from your touch tone phone in front of the national or international number you wish to call. It couldn't be easier.

Destination	Rate
Belgium	15p
France	15p
Germany	15p
Hong Kong	15p
India	15p
Israel	15p
Japan	15p
Netherlands	15p

No Pre-payment! No switching phone companies! (UK dial 1878 first)

HOW TO DIAL 1878 'N' SAVE INTERNATIONAL

REGISTER NOW AND START SAVING!

One.Tel
100% Telephone Co.

0800 092 8988

Not applicable to calls made to or from Mobile phones. All rates are correct at time of publication and can change at any time. All prices include VAT.

COMET

We're positive we can help

THE COMET PRICE PROMISE: The prices in South Wales do not show savings in price. All items subject to availability. Wholesaler Final Offer: 10% discount then 3 equal monthly payments, 2% APR. For example: Comet price - £149.99. Deposit 10% - £14.99. Amount of payments - 3 months of £7.34. Plus the balance £30.45. Total payable - £62.88. On 4pm as for 24 months at 12.31 per month. 23.5% APR. Total amount payable - £150.45. Interest Free Option: payments require you to provide 2 months of identification on application. 2% APR is subject to status and credit record. Comet is a licensed credit broker for the internet. Comet Group Plc, George Street, Hall, Gloucester. Comet Group Plc, 100% Telephone Co. All items subject to availability. Delivery only available in mainland UK. *Further offers and cost of business. *Vouchers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or voucher. Note to stores: Voucher offers. Please see Comet Code of Practice. Comet Group Plc, 100% Telephone Co. All items subject to availability. Delivery only available in mainland UK. Prices and information correct at time of going to press: 11/2/99

A Washington demonstrator outside the Capitol yesterday demands a jail sentence for President Clinton. Inside, support for a conviction was ebbing.

७५। न. ॥ ५॥

pc 300gl

price

From £1,115* or
£32** per month
(inc. 15" monitor
and VAT).

power

Intel® Pentium® II processor,
400 to 450MHz¹ or Intel®
Celeron™ processor,
366A MHz. From 64MB²
memory. Up to 12.8GB³
hard drive.

simplicity

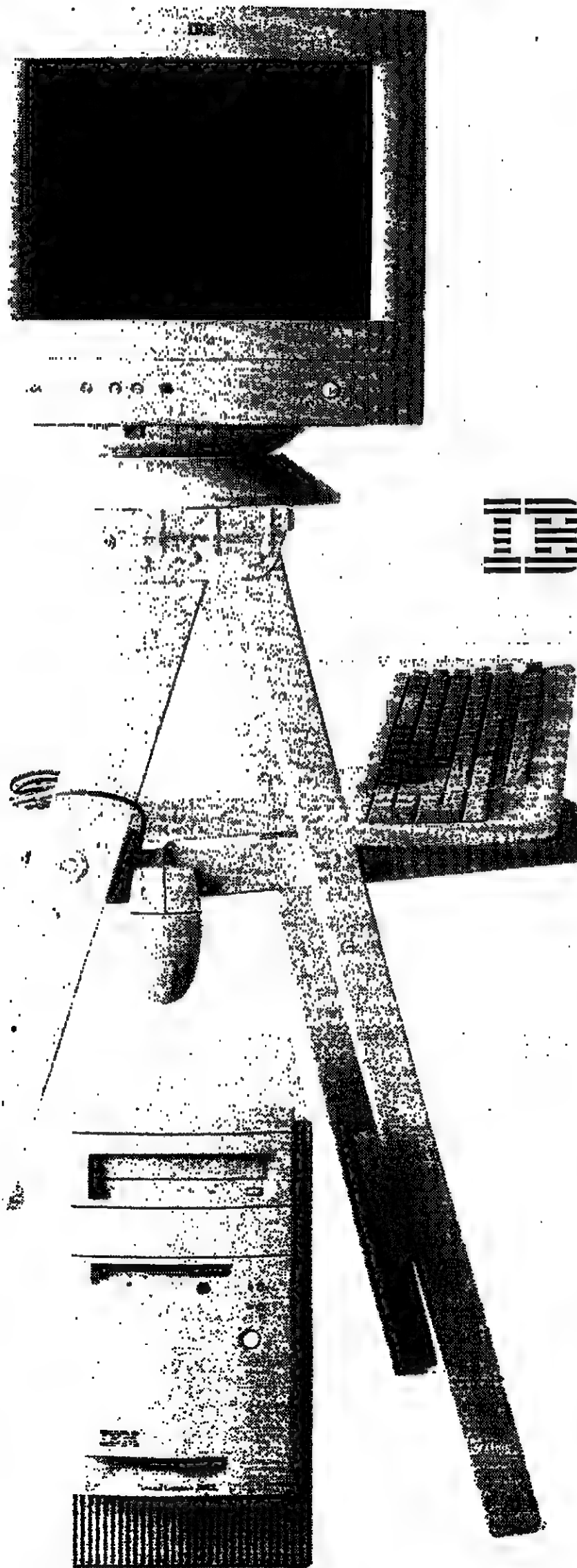
e-business ready to go with
integrated 56K modem on all
Intel® Pentium® II processor based
models. State of the art security
and protection tools that back up
your data at the first hint of trouble.

get started

Introducing the IBM PC300GL Small Business Series, loaded
with Microsoft Office Small Business Edition. It's up and running and
ready for business. Are you? Visit www.ibm.com/pc/uk/desktop or
call Daniel Page on 0870 010 2512. In Ireland phone 1890 20 04 26.

@e-business tools

affordable work force



IBM



*Typical buying price for PC300GL model 340 and display monitor G51. Resellers set their own prices, so prices may vary. **Monthly cost (inc. VAT) payable quarterly in advance under a three year IBM Financing Agreement. Available, subject to credit status, to Limited Companies, Government and Educational organisations. Minimum initial contract value £5,000. MHz denotes microprocessor internal clock speed only; other factors may also affect application performance. 1MB = one million bytes when referring to hard drive capacity; accessible capacity may be less. *GB = Gigabyte (one thousand million bytes) when referring to hard drive capacity; accessible capacity may be less. All PCs referenced in this ad ship with an operating system. IBM product names are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. Microsoft, Windows and Windows NT are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Other company, product and service names may be trademarks or service marks of others. Intel, the Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation and Celeron is a trademark of Intel Corporation.

... Roy
CORRUPT

British p
raises te
over Gib

UK's Low

5.

Princess Royal may review her role after Games bribery scandal

By JOHN GOODBODY
AND ALAN HAMILTON

THE Princess Royal issued a veiled threat to review her position as a member of the tainted International Olympic Committee last night. She is keeping a low profile, but is known to be disturbed by the "cash for votes" scandal which will come to a head at a meeting in Lausanne next month. It has already led to the resignations of four IOC members and recommendations to expel five others, and threatens the presidency of



Juan Antonio Samaranch. A spokesman for the Princess Royal said: "The Princess's view is that she has no reason, at present, to abandon her membership of the IOC. She still hopes to do what she can from within the organisation

and make herself heard. She feels that she can still play a useful role. She was, after all, an Olympic competitor herself."

The attitude of the Princess Royal contrasts with that of other European royals. Crown Prince Willem-Alexander of The Netherlands has suspended his IOC membership and says he will withdraw if Schor Samaranch fails to clean up the body.

The Spanish Government has also advised Crown Prince Felipe that now is not the time to take up an offer to

join the 115-strong organisation. The Princess Royal, who competed in the equestrian events at the 1976 Games, has always been known for her refusal to accept gifts from bidding cities. She always returns them — without thanks. She will not attend the IOC meeting in Lausanne on March 17 and 18, when there will be votes on whether to expel the five members who are accused of accepting money or favours when Salt Lake City successfully bid for the 2002 Winter Games. She will be on an official visit to Japan.

New Zealand and the Philippines. However, the outcome of the vote is almost certain to colour the Princess's view of her continued tenure as one of Britain's two IOC members. □ New York: The Olympics' largest corporate backers yesterday launched an effort to change sponsorship arrangements, including the possible incorporation of "morals clauses" (James Bone writes). The 11 official sponsors, including Coca-Cola Co. Time Warner, McDonald's Corp and IBM, met as a group for the first time yesterday with

Olympic officials. Representing the IOC at the New York meeting were Michael Payne, the Games' British marketing director, and Richard Pound, the Canadian who is vice-president for marketing.

The sponsors, who have each paid an average of £25 million to add their name to the Olympics, are reported to be preparing a list of demands for negotiations over sponsorship contracts that come up for renewal after the Sydney Games in 2000.

Even though the New York meeting was scheduled a

month ago, the sponsors' readiness to act in unison could spell trouble for the IOC.

So far the major Olympic sponsors have remained committed to the Games, with only one company publicly breaking ranks.

John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co., announced this week that it would not spend £12 million to advertise on NBC television's Olympic coverage next year because of the IOC's handling of the scandal.

The company also ordered the Olympic rings to be re-

moved from posters at sports arenas in its hometown of Boston.

Salt Lake City's Olympic Committee announced an internal shake-up yesterday, that included imposing new conflict-of-interest rules and hiring a new chief, Min Romney. The committee's board of trustees was increased from 33 to 50 and stripped of decision-making authority by being turned into an advisory body for a new management committee of 20. Three leading committee members also resigned.

British protest raises tension over Gibraltar

TENSIONS between Britain and Spain escalated sharply yesterday after the Government accused Madrid of breaking European law over its threat to stop accepting Gibraltar driving licences.

Ministers promised to "defend with determination" the legitimate rights of Gibraltar as the centuries-old dispute over the territory threatened to erupt again.

In the Commons passions were high as MPs from all sides condemned Madrid for suggesting that it would ban aircraft from Gibraltar flying over Spain.

But there were demands for Britain to go further, with one Labour MP suggesting that a Royal Navy fisheries protection vessel should be sent to the area, and accusations from the Tories that the Government was engaged in a policy of retreat and surrender.

Madrid gave a warning it would adopt a "tougher" stance on Gibraltar, saying that Anglo-Spanish talks on the territory's future had reached a "watershed".

Ramón de Miguel, the junior Foreign Minister, said Spain had maintained an "open and flexible" policy towards Gibraltar since 1996. But, he said, Spain "can no longer tolerate that the territo-

Madrid demands an end to 'illicit activities' on the Rock, writes Phil Webster

ry's] prosperity is being made parasitically" on the back of the Spanish economy.

Apart from its sovereign claim on Gibraltar, Spain was demanding the immediate end of "illicit and irregular" activities there, without elaborating.

In London, Conservatives claimed that in their desire to build a close relationship with Spain, the Government had given the impression that it was prepared to soften its line on sovereignty. This was denied by ministers who said that the position remained as it always had been.

The row, which threatened to sour the previously warm relations between London and Madrid, blew up over a dispute about fishing rights in the waters off Gibraltar. Tensions were raised last month when Spain — which has long contested British sovereignty over the Rock — tightened border

controls after the seizure by police of one of its vessels for illegal fishing.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, telephoned Peter Caruana, the colony's Chief Minister, yesterday to assure him of Britain's full support, while Downing Street denounced Spain's "unacceptable threatening behaviour".

On Wednesday, Peter Torry, the British Ambassador in Madrid, lodged a protest with the Spanish Government after police turned back drivers at the Gibraltar border.

Sir Stephen Wall, Britain's permanent representative in Brussels, was last night writing to Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, to express the Government's concerns over the Spanish action. The free movement of European Union citizens is a central part of EU law.

A spokesman for Abel Matutes, the Spanish Foreign Minister, said that Britain was going back on an agreement settled last October which should have resolved the dispute over fishing rights.

However, Mr Caruana said the row had been manufactured by Spain. "This isn't about fishing. This is about sovereignty," he said.

Leading article, page 23



Cars wait to cross from Gibraltar to Spain yesterday after Madrid tightened border controls and said it may not accept Gibraltar driving licences

Patients in the front line as Spanish curbs bite

FROM DOMINIQUE SEARLE
IN GIBRALTAR

TWENTY outpatients at St Bernard's Hospital on Gibraltar are the first victims of the uncertainty that Spain's threat to restrict access to and from the Rock has created.

Juan Diego Poyatos, a specialist from Málaga who visits monthly to measure patients for limbs and girdles, was given a warning by Spanish Interior Ministry officials

that if he entered Gibraltar he could face difficulties returning because of the specialist equipment he carries with him. The measuring clinic has been postponed indefinitely, the chief physiotherapist confirmed last night.

A campaign to bring dialy-

sis equipment to the Rock has been given priority as patients flooded the *Gibraltar Chronicle* with letters demanding that the local government provide facilities on the Rock. They said that they had been distressed by the controls at the frontier and the way in-

spection of ambulances have been carried out as they cross to facilities in neighbouring La Linea. During a protest by fishermen at the frontier a fortnight ago Spanish police authorised protesters to search the ambulances.

The blockade at the frontier

continued yesterday. A few cars took an hour to cross. In normal circumstances the rate is at least six a minute. Traffic into Gibraltar has dropped by two thirds, the Royal Gibraltar Police confirmed. Madrid has also threatened to ban civil aircraft flying over Spain.

UK's Lowest Rate Ever.



5.9%

APR Guaranteed until July '99

The Co-operative Bank now offers the UK's lowest credit card rate ever. Our Advantage Visa credit and gold cards offer an introductory rate of just 5.9% APR, fixed until July for balance transfers and purchases. Even then it reverts to just 13.8% APR, variable - still one of the lowest standard rates available. This could save you up to £350* in interest.

payments, and with no annual fee, this is an excellent deal for those who carry over a credit card balance each month.

If that sounds like you, transfer your existing balance to us now. You don't even have to bank with us. Just call the freephone number below anytime.

www.advantage-visa.co.uk

Save up to £350

No annual fee

Just 13.8% APR variable from July '99

No need to bank with us

0800 000 365

Post to: Visa dept, The Co-operative Bank plc, FREEPOST (NMMW 5239), Stammersdale, WNS 62U or phone 0800 000 365 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Please use block capitals.

Full name _____ Address _____
Postcode _____ Phone number _____

Please tick card interested in ☐ Visa Card ☐ Gold Visa Card

*Based on a £1,000 credit limit and a 12% standard variable rate. Interest is charged on the outstanding balance at the end of each month. Interest is charged at 13.8% APR from July 1999. The Co-operative Bank reserves the right to decline any application. Payment of 2% of your outstanding balance each month (minimum £5) or more if you wish. Finance department is open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Please allow 2-3 weeks for processing. Co-operative Bank Advantage Visa credit cards are 13.8% APR from July 1999. Standard Bank Visa credit cards are 11.4% APR from July 1999. The Co-operative Bank Advantage Visa credit cards are 5.9% APR from July 1999. The Co-operative Bank Advantage Visa credit cards are 5.9% APR from July 1999. The Co-operative Bank Advantage Visa credit cards are 5.9% APR from July 1999.

SIEMENS

THE ALL IN ONE NOTEBOOK FOR PROFESSIONALS



£999.00 plus VAT
£1173.82 inc. VAT

The SCENIC Mobile 350CDT

is an object lesson in mobile computing — a value-packed laptop with Heuristic Power Management delivering a best-in-class battery life of up to 4 hours. Enjoying the build and ergonomic quality that is our hallmark, the Mobile 350CDT includes a 12.1" TFT SVGA screen offering a crystal clear display; combined CD-ROM/Floppy drive; USB and is euro and Year 2000 ready. Call 0800 125555 quoting MST72 to find out how a SCENIC Mobile 350CDT makes working on the move a pleasure.

Siemens Computer Systems
Information meets Communication



SCENIC Mobile 350CDT Intel® Pentium® 266 MHz MMX™ processor, 512Kb Second-level cache, 12.1" TFT SVGA Display, 2Mb EDO video RAM (128 kb), 20Gb hard disk, micro and 20-speed CD-ROM and 3.5" floppy, 32Mb SDRAM (expandable to 128Mb), Heuristic Power Management (HPM), Universal Serial Bus (USB), PC 97 compliant, Year 2000 ready, EURO-compliant, Intel® QPCR No. 1175121

Kosovo gloom as threat of airstrikes grows

FROM TOM WALKER IN RAMBOUILLET

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, and his French counterpart, Hubert Védrine, returned to the Kosovo peace conference yesterday for the second time in 48 hours, amid speculation that the talks were in danger of collapse.

Despite objections from France and Russia, Nato intervention may now be inevitable. A Nato representative was said to have been involved in the talks for the first time.

In Paris, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said in an interview broadcast yesterday that a decision had been taken to bomb Serb targets if the talks fail due to Serbian recalcitrance.

"If the Serbs are responsible for the fact that the talks fail, then it will be Serb targets that are hit," she told France 3 television in the interview, conducted on Wednesday.

"Our diplomacy is backed by the use of force and that decision, to use force, has been made if the talks don't progress."

She told ethnic Albanians

they also would pay a price if they undermined the talks. "If the KLA [Kosovo Liberation Army] and the Albanians are responsible, then they will lose the support of the international community that they depend on in order to pursue their goals," she said.

The next week promises to make or break the talks. A Contact Group document will be discussed that demands both Albanians and Serbs substantially reduce their fighting units in Kosovo.

The Serbs must withdraw all their Ministry of Interior special police, including the much-feared SAJ anti-terrorist squads. The Serb police presence should be reduced from about 20,000 men to about 2,500, and the Yugoslav Army should scale down its presence to leave no more than 1,500 troops patrolling a five-kilometre (about three miles) zone along the borders with Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

On the Albanian side, the

KLA must disarm its fighters of all weapons larger than the 7.62mm Kalashnikov calibre. The KLA must withdraw to positions at least one kilometre from police stations and Yugoslav Army bases and move all its heavy weapons into cantonment sites open to Nato inspection. Up to 10,000 Nato troops could enter Kosovo by the end of the month.

The prospects of either the Serbs or KLA willingly falling into line with such demands before the expiry of the seven-day deadline for completing the talks are slim. In a briefing yesterday Mr Cook said: "Most of the agreement will be made in the last 24 hours before the deadline."

The leading personality in the Albanian delegation in the château is Hashim Thaci, a political science graduate with Marxist leanings. Mr Thaci, 29, who heads the KLA's political directorate, is totally opposed to the youthful and rapidly developing force being disbanded. If the KLA is to disappear, the Albanians imagine it will be absorbed into a new police force for Kosovo.

The Albanians are increasingly wary of the Franco-Russian bid to water down the scale of international intervention, and Mr Thaci has been demanding that Nato should be a signatory to any deal.

The Serbs yesterday countered this by staging a unilateral signing of the ten "principles" under which the conference was convened, which include the inviolability of Yugoslavia's current borders.

Mr Cook responded by regretting that Belgrade was still insisting that both sides should sign the principles.



Ethnic Albanians carry the coffins of 40 massacre victims to their hillside graves yesterday. Mourners were told: "Briefly, an evil visited Racak"

Death keeps a welcome on Racak hillside



Anthony Loyd in Racak sees survivors of a deserted village briefly reunited as 40 victims of a massacre are buried

same void as those of similar examinations after massacres in Sarajevo during the Bosnian war.

However, yesterday at last the remaining 40 dead were laid to rest.

On the previous day they were returned to the mosque in Racak. The small village lies on an alluvial plain between two ridges and is looked down upon by Serb troops to the east and Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas to the west. Their fears assuaged by the presence of observers from the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in Europe, the moment to mourn was the first time the villagers had returned home.

Weeping continued yesterday as men laboured on a nearby hillside to carve graves from the rocky soil beneath the snow. They were directed by an imam with a compass who pointed eastwards over the Serb-held slopes to Mecca. Thousands of Albanians from nearby villages trooped to Racak through black trees and waterlogged fields — a tangible landscape of grief. In the early afternoon

the coffins were borne up the slopes. William Walker, the head of the Kosovo Verification Mission, spoke among the piled graveside earth. In spite of so many unanswered questions about the killings, he remained unrepentant about his earlier criticism of the Serb forces.

"Today we stand united against those who committed this crime against humanity," he said, his vitriol dampened by a monotone delivery and repeated pauses for translation. "The deaths in Racak demand justice, and justice must be seen to be done. Even in the midst of conflict and war, certain rules of decency and humanity should be observed. By the manner of their treatment before death, by the way they met their deaths, by what befell their mortal remains in the aftermath, these rules

were repeatedly violated. Briefly, an evil visited Racak." A small posse of KLA fighters loitered among the mourners. Like everyone else, they fell silent and stared skywards as a Serb helicopter passed unseen in the clouds above, the throb of its rotors transforming the mood immediately into subjugation.

For an army that has won not a single victory, the presence of the media must have been some consolation: if you can win a war by losing it on television, the KLA's fortunes are in the ascendant.

As soon as the graves were filled and Mr Walker left, the mourners collected their abandoned stray livestock, gathered every portable household provision, and fled once more — leaving Racak empty and desolate and the graves alone on the hill.



Robin Cook at Rambouillet yesterday to check on progress

London engine firm denies Eritrea sales

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE EDITOR

A BRITISH company reacted angrily yesterday to accusations that it had sold engines from Russian T54 and T55 tanks to Eritrea, which is currently involved in renewed border fighting with Ethiopia.

A Customs investigation in Belgium has been under way since October last year when the 80 engines were seized in

Antwerp. British Customs is also involved in the inquiry. The seizure has come to light following a resolution passed by the United Nations Security Council on Wednesday which called on all countries to impose a voluntary embargo on arms sales to Eritrea and Ethiopia.

JMT Charlesworth, which trades as Global Services, based in south London, admitted yesterday that the engines used in Russian bulldozers were the same as

those that powered T55 tanks. But its engines were to have been used by a road construction company in Eritrea, it said. A spokeswoman said an export licence to sell the spare parts and four tonne trucks to Eritrea had been approved.

Paris: France has sent an anti-aircraft frigate to protect the Red Sea republic of Djibouti in response to the use of modern Russian-made planes by the warring Eritrean and Ethiopian air forces. (Reuters)



The Palio, traditionally run in the heart of Siena

Siena race gallops into trouble

Rome: The future of the world's most ancient horse race, the Palio in Siena, Tuscany, is at risk after claims of doping and cruelty (Richard Owen writes).

Two horses died in last summer's Palio, a no-holds-barred bareback race staged since the 15th century on the Campo, the medieval square in the heart of Siena. There is fierce rivalry between the contrade, or guilds, who race the horses. The race has drawn foreign visitors, including Tony Blair and the Duchess of York. But the animal rights activists claimed a victory last year when Mr Blair did not go.

US missile plan fuels build-up by China

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

CHINA'S deployment of more than 100 ballistic missiles in coastal regions opposite Taiwan is its response to discussions in Washington of an American scheme to place parts of Asia, possibly including Taiwan, under a US missile defence umbrella, military sources said yesterday.

Beijing perceives the Theatre Missile Defence scheme as "a threat to the mainland" and an aggressive move meant to contain China.

The US proposals, now in the planning stages, appear to have ended the Sino-American honeymoon which began last year when President Clinton visited Beijing after President Jiang Zemin had toured the US, diplomats said.

The dispute is the biggest challenge to Washington's growing strategic links with China since the US sent two aircraft carriers to the region three years ago after China had fired missiles close to the island during military exercises in the Taiwan Strait.

Diplomats say the controversy could muddy the waters for the planned first official visit of Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Minister, to the US in the spring.

The huge Chinese build-up

— the Pentagon, for its part, believes Beijing has stationed up to 200 M9 and M11 medium-range ballistic missiles on its side of the Strait — is believed to be one of the world's heaviest concentrations of strategic weapons in a single limited region.

The new tensions have been exacerbated by the possibility that Taiwan — which the Chinese Communist Government regards as a breakaway province, not an independent nation — could shelter under this anti-missile umbrella being considered by America and Japan.

The idea has alarmed Beijing, which looks on the so-called Theatre Missile Defence as an aggressive move aimed at containing China. Washington said initially the idea was a defence against North Korea's expanding missile programme, but Administration officials say that China cannot expect the missiles stationed in its southeastern region to be ignored.

A warning against extending the Theatre Missile Defence to Taiwan was delivered last month by Sha Zukeng, China's outspoken director-general of arms control and disarmament.

In an interview with the American publication, *Defense News*, he said: "My God, that's really the limit." He continued ominously: "It constitutes a serious infringement of China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It also represents a deliberate move on the part of the US to provoke the entire Chinese people. Such a move will bring serious consequences."

The National Security Council and the State Department are aware of the need to maintain President Clinton's policy of a "strategic dialogue" with China, which includes neither nation targeting its intercontinental ballistic missiles at the other. Pentagon analysts argue that they are taking a more pragmatic view of the region, which its critics see as a pro-Taiwan bias. As a result, a secret Pentagon report on the Chinese build-up has languished.

It was completed before Christmas by Kurt Campbell, Deputy Assistant Defence Secretary for Asian and Pacific affairs, but is awaiting the signature of William Cohen, the Defence Secretary. The delay has been attributed to efforts by the State Department to soften its impact.

THE ITALIAN LAKES & VENICE

based on the lovely Hotel Britannia Excelsior, Lake Como, or for a supplement of £25 per night the renowned Grand Hotel Menaggio

All things conspire to make our visit to the Italian Lakes a delight especially for lovers of great scenery, villas, gardens, good food, wine and serenity of lakeside scenes themselves. The dramatic setting of these lakes in the southern Alps is complemented by their different character and unique beauty. It is hardly surprising that the British have long held a special affection for the area and there will be opportunities enough to explore and be rewarded at every turn.

Flights from Heathrow to Venice every Sunday morning using a scheduled seat configured aircraft. We have chosen as our base two splendid hotels: the 3-star Hotel Britannia Excelsior is located close to the famous Villa Carlotta at Cadenabbia and all 152 rooms have ensuite facilities. The superior 4-star Grand Hotel Menaggio located right on the lake and built in classical style. There is a large swimming pool, fine restaurant and many majestic rooms and its 36 beautifully appointed rooms all have ensuite facilities.

On Day 1 you may participate in an

7 nights from £355
Including half board



optional morning visit to Venice including St Mark's Square, the Doge's Palace, the Bridge of Sighs and Rialto Bridge and a cruise on the Grand Canal.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES
1999 Summers - per person in a twin bedded room for one week at the Hotel Britannia Excelsior

March 28 £405 - April 4 £405
April 11, 18, 25 £355 - May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 £295
June 6, 13, 20, 27 £405 - July 4, 11, 18, 25 £405
Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 £405 - Sept 5, 12, 19, 26 £415
Oct 3, 10, 17, 24 £355
Single supplement £160, Lake View £39, Extra week £230 twin - £390 in a single.
*Optional tour of Venice £25.

Upgrade to Grand Hotel Menaggio: £175 in a twin, £205 in a single, Lake View £79, Extra week £390 twin - £520 in a single.

Price includes all transportation, 7 nights accommodation on half board, services of local guides, UK departure tax, fuel, baggage, insurance, medical support, Visa, Venice train, airport, Our Current Conditions of Booking (on request) shall apply to all reservations.

0171-616 1000

VOYAGES JULES VERNE

21 Dorset Square, London NW1 1 503

Our offices are open on telephone 0171 616 1000, 10am-6pm. We have weekday & even hours for some of our services. For personal visitors our office hours are 10am-5pm week days only.



Valentine's Selfridges

Eat your heart out

Selfridges Food Hall offers a thousand ways to someone's heart. From freshly prepared delicacies to loving spoonfuls of delicious Valentine's cake. From silver-plated bowls filled with heart-melting chocolates to heart-shaped cheeses and salmon. From pink champagne to red roses. Everything, in fact, but Cupid's arrow itself.

SELFRIDGES

SIX OF THE BEST

Valentine gifts

SEALED ROSE

£9.99 plus

£2.50 p&p

Sealed in a vacuum pack, this rose can be ordered with one phone call, an easy way to please a lover.

Running Wild, mail order (0171-793 9544)

8/10

RED LIPSTICK, £16

Anything by Chanel is utterly desirable. With a name like Lucifer, this deep red lipstick is a killer. Chanel, all good department stores (0171-493 3836)

10/10

HEART CHOCOLATES, £13.95

Godiva makes some of the best Belgian chocolates, and these come with all the Valentine trimmings. If the chocolates don't make you sick, the packaging will. Godiva, nationwide and mail order (0171-495 2845)

8/10

RED ROSES BATH OIL, £42

Always beautifully packaged, Jo Malone gifts will set any girl's heart racing. Jo Malone, 154 Walton Street SW3, or mail order (0171-720 0202)

10/10

HEART JEWELLERY, from £7

These eye-catching quotes engraved on silver-plated jewellery are beautiful and affordable. Marks & Spencer, selected stores nationwide (0171-935 4422)

10/10

VIRTUAL VALENTINE SET, £35

This unconventional scent set includes mint chocolate-chip, rose and leather. All smell uncannily like the real thing. Demeter, selected House of Fraser stores nationwide (0171-937 5432)

9/10

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

One perfect present

CUTTING
EDGE
JANE SHILLING

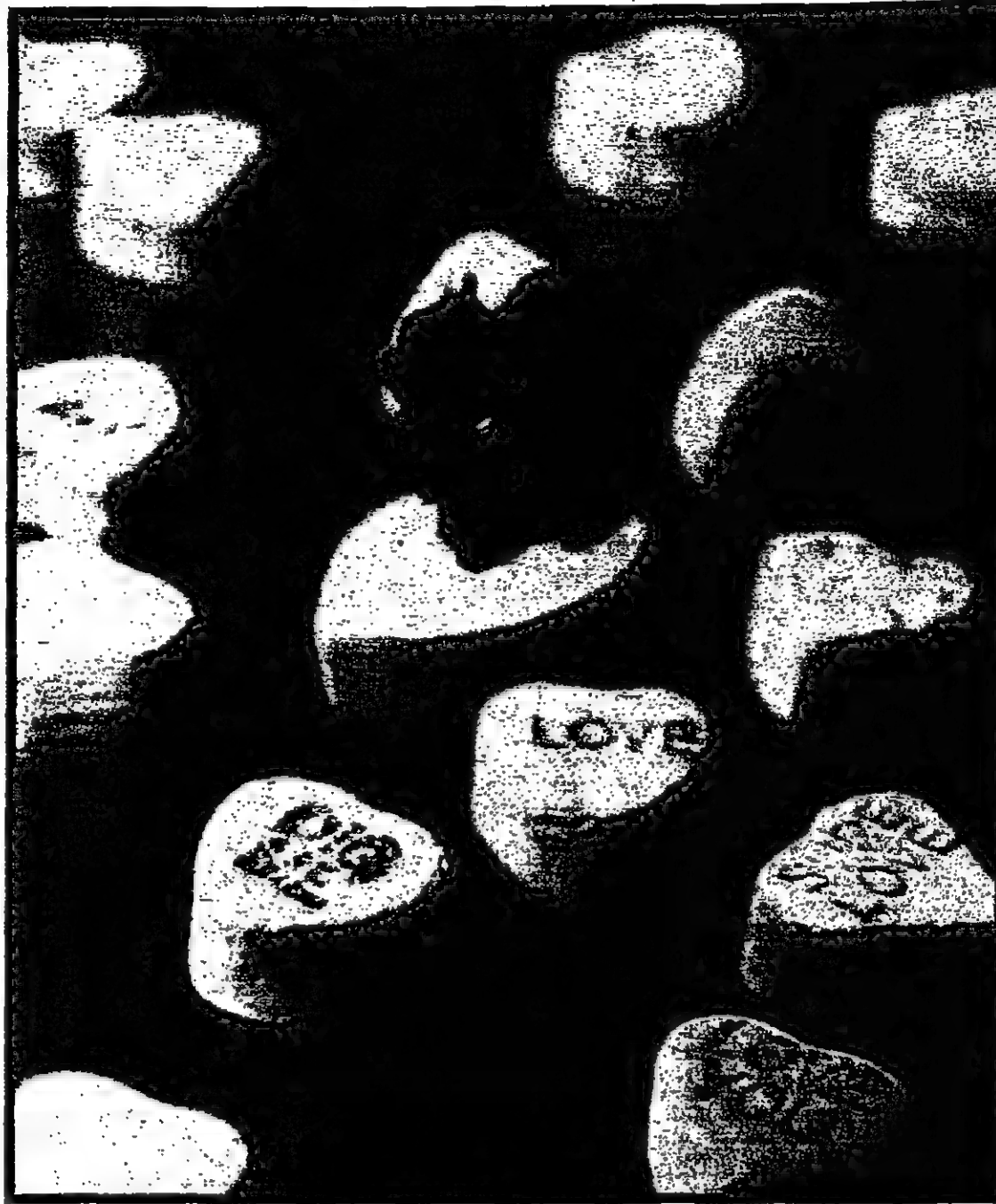
I know what I am getting for Valentine's Day. Breakfast in bed, a card and a bunch of flowers. And I also happen to know that breakfast will consist of a chocolate mini-roll, an assortment of jelly babies and a mug of strong Ribena, that the card will feature Minnie the Mimx, leering horribly beneath the legend "Wahey! It's Valentine's Day", and that the flowers will be a muddy bunch of *Iris reticulata*, picked from the patch by the front door.

How do I know this? Because I happened to be sweeping under my son's bed when I accidentally discovered a box marked "Secret Plans" which, having the soul of Slipper of the Yard, I opened. By the time Alexander is old enough to have the sort of secret plans I'd rather not know about, I expect he will have found a better place to stash them. In the meantime, at least I know that I'm definitely getting something for Valentine's Day, and that I'll be pleased when it arrives. Which is more than you can say for a lot of poor girls.

It strikes me that the urgent way in which retailers encourage us to spend lots of money on gratuitous objects to give each other on Valentine's Day does a good deal to foster the misunderstanding that already exists between men and women on the subject of presents. The Christmas trees were hardly down before the pink hearts began to appear in the windows, accompanied by an atmosphere rather like the one I imagine must hang over a household where the marriage is shaky and the wedding anniversary looming.

Bothered-looking chaps, clearly aware that something grand is expected of them but certain that whatever gesture they make is bound to be wrong, escorting pinch-lipped girls, bracing themselves for the arrival of a sad bunch of scentless hothouse rosebuds, or a large bottle of the scent they wore on their first date (the fact that she now wears nothing but CK One does not impinge upon the eager young man in love. He is ever so pleased with himself for finding such a big bottle of Charriol it was the last one, right at the very back of the topmost shelf.)

Burying the problem in money will not necessarily make it go away, as one poor fellow was in the process of discovering when I looked into Janet Reger's shop in Beauchamp Place. "Er... what other colours does this come in?" he was saying hopelessly, staring like a mouse in the grip of a python at a trothing mound of frilly underthings in every shade of the



Courtin Cupid: it is possible to charm your way into your lover's heart on a shoestring

spectrum. Janet Reger's lace-encrusted satin lingerie in an arresting shade of purplish-crimson is, apparently, very popular with gentlemen for Valentine's presents.

For myself, I think I might prefer some of the more delicate colour combinations. An exquisite slip in almond blossom pink satin with insets of moss green lace, also in ivory with midnight blue lace or lilac with black, is £295; a matching short robe is £350.

If you want to make a grand gesture, there is plenty of scope at Theo Fennell (0171-591 5000), whose gold key pendants with jewelled shanks start at £240. At Nigel Milne, a selection of pretty Victorian lockets starts

at around £500, or there is his own heart-shaped pendant, a model of restraint in white gold and brilliant-cut diamonds for £330. At Elias Lalsoums (0171-235 9253) gold Cupid pendants begin at £470, or there is a wide silver ring with a gold heart, pavé-set with rubies for £235.

But, despite Dorothy Parker's plaintive line about dating men who send one perfect rose and don't understand a girl's need for one perfect line, it is possible to charm your way into your lover's heart on a shoestring. If she is a cook, try her with a set of Divertimenti's white porcelain coeur à la crème moulds, £4.95 each

for small ones, £23.70 for large. The Conran Shop has garlands of heart-shaped dried peppers with fragrant bunches of dried herbs, £4.95; a blood-red cook's apron, £17.95; or five litres of Carlotto's extra virgin olive oil in a glass flask with a little gold tap, £79. I strongly advise against curdly toys, but if you really must, Conran has a curly-coated bear in a blue fisherman's sweater with a heart on the front, £16.95.

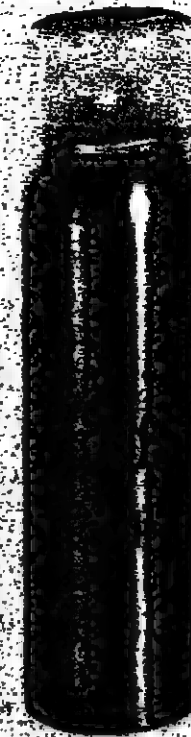
If you love a bluestocking, Conran has albums bound in fuchsia nubuck, embossed with "L'amour, Love, La Joie de Vivre" and so on from £45. A stick of rose-pink sealing wax is £1.25. Wrap it up with Smythson's red leather correspondence en-

velope, with creamy cards embossed with a red heart, £95.

From Agnes B's red leather-cased, heart-shaped handbag mirror, £11, to Tiffany's silver charm bracelet with a heart clasp, £85, from heart-shaped silk lavender bags at The Cross, £8.15, to organza cones at Floris, from £7.95, there are many ways to show your sweetheart you love her without getting arrested by the style police.

But take care. If you get it wrong, next time you go calling, you may find yourself looking at a smart new doormat from Jerry's Home Store, £16.95. In elegant capitals, impeccably framed in a handsome navy border, it says, in letters of coin: "GO AWAY."

HOT TIP



If your choice on Valentine's night is a beaded dress, spray on a little 1010 Body Oil Mist. It adds a light fragrance and a silky sheen to skin, and after dinner it can double as massage oil. £3.50 from Boots at selected stores nationwide (0845 0708080)

Objects of desire

Jo Rocha has the knack of bringing both his and his fiancée's tastes to life. This coral lace bra, £114, and G-string worn under a small lace cami-ekit, £179, should do the trick. From Sculpture, 23 Brook Street, W1 (0171-661 0503)

The Irish fashion designer John Rocha has created a sleek and understated range for Waterford Crystal. These champagne glasses are beautifully crafted with designs that reflect the light. £20 a pair at John Rocha, 60F Sloane Avenue, SW1 (0800 339340)

THESE BOOKS ARE TODAY'S NEWS

THE BIOGRAPHY
OF THE DECADE

'A monumental work'

INDEPENDENT

THE BOOK BEHIND THE
HIT OF THE MOMENTThe Unmaking of
Elvis Presley

Author of Last Train to Memphis

WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE AT THE TURN OF
THE FIRST MILLENNIUMTHE YEAR
1000ROBERT LACEY
& DANNY DANZIGERTHE BOOK
OF THE YEAR'As stylish a popular social
history as one could find'

THE TIMES

WHICH ONE ARE YOU READING?



Available at all good bookshops

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

CHRONICLE
of the FUTURE

The baby whose mum never lived

IN THE YEARS 2000-2009

An English city bans all vehicles... War Channel shows battles as they happen... surgeons inject brain tissue to cure memory loss... Disney part-funds Japanese lunar probe... Phoebe's diary, a teenage-view of the new millennium

Don't miss week 1 of the Chronicle of the Future, a fascinating and thought-provoking five-part series. FREE THIS SUNDAY

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Rob and Ewan both want a wife



but there aren't enough women to go round. So the question is: will some nice girls go to a place like Uist? Anne Barrowclough finds out

Robert Currie is staring morosely into his empty beer glass, contemplating the idea of Valentine's Day. "It's going to be miserable," he says at last. "Really sad, actually."

Robert doesn't have a girlfriend. Never has had one, and can't see any prospect of getting one. Not that Robert is socially inept, or unattractive. In fact, he's young, good-looking and trendy in his Tommy Hilfiger sweatshirt and jeans and, what's more, is the island's DJ with his own disco, Dance Krazee — a job that not only gets him the latest album releases but should ensure him a constant supply of impressionable young girls.

That's just the problem. Because on North Uist, in the Outer Hebrides, there aren't many young, impressionable girls. In fact, there aren't many girls at all. So on Valentine's Day there will be no romance and roses and Robert already knows that the disco he will be running that evening is going to be a big disappointment.

"It will be full of men, almost no women. No one will dance; they'll all just stand around drinking till 12 o'clock when we have to close up.

Then they'll go home. I'll know everyone there, all the men, and the few girls who'll show up. It'll be like having a party with my family, that's how sad it is. It's like that every Saturday night and it won't be any different just because it's Valentine's Day."

North Uist has a serious woman problem. The number of females has been declining steadily for a decade and is still falling. Many of the island's young people go to the mainland for higher education and, while the men often return to the traditional island jobs of crofting and fishing, the young women prefer to stay on the mainland, where jobs are more plentiful and life is easier.

Unemployment is a problem throughout the Western Isles, running at about 8.3 per cent — almost 3 per cent higher than the average for Scotland. On North Uist the jobs shortage affects the 1,386 women even more than the 2,064 men.

But now the island is to receive a grant of £711,000 — half from the EU and half from a group of Scottish organisations — to help it to attract more women to its bleak shores and to encourage those still there to remain.

'We all drink. If only we had wives to keep us at home'

As a single, thirtysomething metropolitan woman I am, naturally, interested to see if North Uist has any charms to attract me or my single girlfriends. I am sorely disappointed. The landscape is stunning but the prospects are dismal. For jobs, we could choose either bartending, waitressing, or working in the Spar supermarket. For nightlife, we could choose from seven pubs, most of which are hotel bars — or there is always Robert's disco on Friday and Saturday nights. For essential retail therapy, there's just one shop, the Island Craft Shop. Admittedly, you can get some interesting knitwear, but Jigsaw it ain't.

As for urbane males, put it this way. A drinker in one of the pubs I visit in my search for (a) nightlife and (b) eligible

men, asks me what the initials RL on my shirt cuff stand for. When I tell him Ralph Lauren, he asks: "Is that your boyfriend, then?"

A working knowledge of designer labels is not, of course, a necessity and the men of North Uist have other traits which their city counterparts would do well to emulate: they have a modesty and sweetness which, combined with their unaffected masculinity, is very appealing. But they feel trapped on an island where too often the easiest escape route is via the bottle.

Down at the harbour, bachelor boys Murdo McArthur, 26, and Ewan MacKinnon, 52, are standing unflinchingly in a snowstorm, and regard me with some curiosity, mixed with fear. Murdo at first shies away like a frightened lamb but he's finally enticed back for a chat.

This young fisherman, who still lives with his parents on their croft, and whose sisters have escaped to the mainland, admits despairingly: "I just can't get a girlfriend. I do my best. I go to the disco every Saturday because that's the only mating market on the island. But there's never many girls there. Just men. What woman would want to marry me, anyway? I'd be out fishing all day and there's nothing here for a woman to do. Except knit."

Ewan is more philosophical, although there's a poignancy about his acceptance of his now permanent bachelor state. "There used to be lots of women here when I was young but I let many a good one slip away. One day I woke up and I was on the wrong side of 50 and there was no one left. I can't even hope for a divorce because once people find a wife they tend to hang on to her."

So just what do the men do for fun? "Uh, go to the pub," says Murdo, shifting his head to look out to sea. "That's what I do. Drink. We all do that. If we had wives, they'd keep us safe at home. Drunkenness is a big problem here."

The grant to be received by North Uist is to be spent on creating jobs that are attractive to women, as well as improving facilities on the island to upgrade the lifestyle of all its young people.

Catrina MacCuish, who speaks for the organisation responsible for distributing the money, speaks highly of island life. "There's lots to do," she says and adds enticingly: "There are lots of clubs." Oh goody, think I, wishing I'd brought my little black number. Until she adds: "There's the sub-aqua club, the canoeing club and evening classes."

Catrina's plans to attract women include resuscitating traditional industries such as seaweed harvesting. But the bachelors aren't optimistic that help collecting will do much to keep women here and, speaking personally, I'd say they have a good point.

As 19-year-old Fiona Henderson points out: "When people come back after a couple of years at university they realise there's nothing for them here. You can't blame them for leaving permanently. All my friends have gone — they all live in Glasgow now. There's

only my friend Shona left and we go to Glasgow whenever we can to shop and go to parties. We'd go mad otherwise."

Back in the bar of the Dark Island Hotel, DJ Robert Currie, whose day job is fish farming, is expounding on what should be done to improve island life. Like many of the young people still on North Uist, he cares deeply about his homeland. Although he is desperate to spread his wings elsewhere and his pals Shona and Fiona need constant R&R in Glasgow to retain their sanity, they at least are trying to do something to invigorate life here. But they feel frustrated by the older people, and by the strong religious traditions which rule island life.

"The churches have a lot of

control," says Robert. "They own all the halls, so if I try to have a disco in any of them I have to close by 11pm. It hardly makes people want to come out... I usually get about 50."

Fiona Henderson, who works as a lifeguard at the local pool, agrees. "I despair, sometimes. There's so much that could be done here but nobody seems interested. There's no enthusiasm to get things moving. That's why so many of my girlfriends leave. Everything is just going to waste."

Fiona, dark and pretty, with her glossy hair cut in the latest style in Glasgow, wants to go to university on the mainland but, after growing up on the island, she isn't sure how to get

on with strangers. Particularly men.

"The trouble is that I don't want to go out with any of the lads here because we know each other so well. You couldn't feel romantic about any of them," she confesses, giggling. "But I'd be nervous about going away and meeting a man somewhere else because I wouldn't know how to talk to him."

In the glaringly sober light of day, I decide to visit Colin Campbell, 64, who told *The Times* last week of his rugged life in his remote farmhouse, and who said: "Only a brave girl would come here." Deciding to be that brave girl, I flounder across a peat bog to his front door, only to find he's gone out. On the way back yet

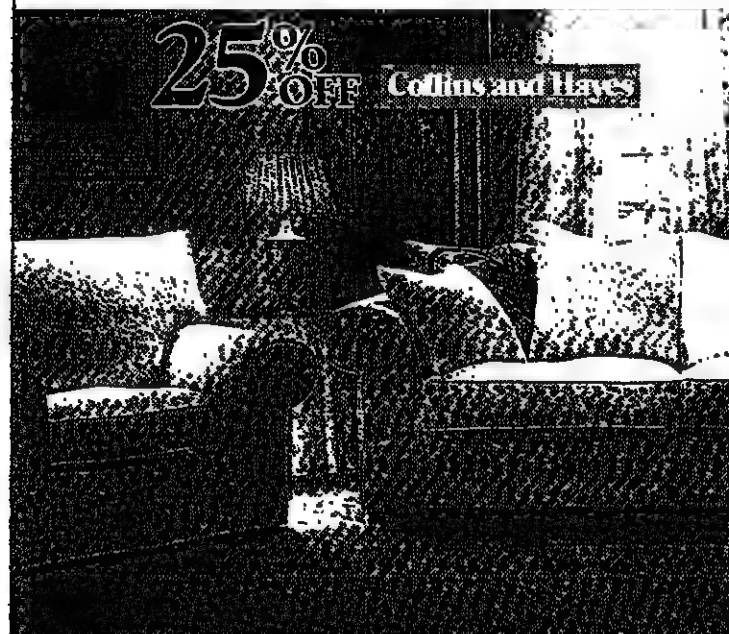
another sudden snowstorm catches me and, as I stand shivering, shin-deep in mud and snow, I decide "foolhardy" would be a better word to describe Colin's ideal girl.

Colin had said that, like most of the bachelors here, he feels a sense of loss at never having married and, later in the day when I speak to him by phone, he is wondering, with some anxiety, if women might start coming to the island, attracted by the large number of single men. Already he has been approached by a hopeful wife. "There is a woman who has started writing to me," he says, chuckling nervously. "She signs herself Anne Amorous."

There is hope yet for the bachelors of North Uist.

SALE

Our entire collection of exclusive International brand and designer furniture is offered at savings from 20% to 50% off our usual prices. Many of these fine items are one only showroom models, which should be viewed this weekend and are available at great sale prices for immediate delivery.



THE OCTAVIA BY COLLINS AND HAYES

This classic Chesterfield style collection is available in fixed and loose cover versions with the loose covers being fully removable and washable at 40°C. Superbly comfortable, this model is available in a wide range of cover options — all at 25% off during our Winter Sale.

Large sofa	usual price £2149	sale price £1599
Medium sofa	usual price £2069	sale price £1549
Easy chair	usual price £1069	sale price £789

GENUINE INTEREST FREE CREDIT 0% APR
Subject to status. Written quotation on request.

FURNITURE
Village
INTERNATIONAL

Maple House 145 Tottenham Court Road
London W1 0171 387 7000 Opposite Warren Street Station

INTERNATIONAL BRAND LEADERS

TURRI 20% OFF
The finest quality hand made Italian Furniture

Kensington Classics 25% OFF
Hand made, upholstered, leather and fabric furniture

WILLIAMS 20% OFF
High quality hand made and designed Spanish furniture

MATLAND-SMITH 20% OFF
Hand made, upholstered, leather and fabric furniture

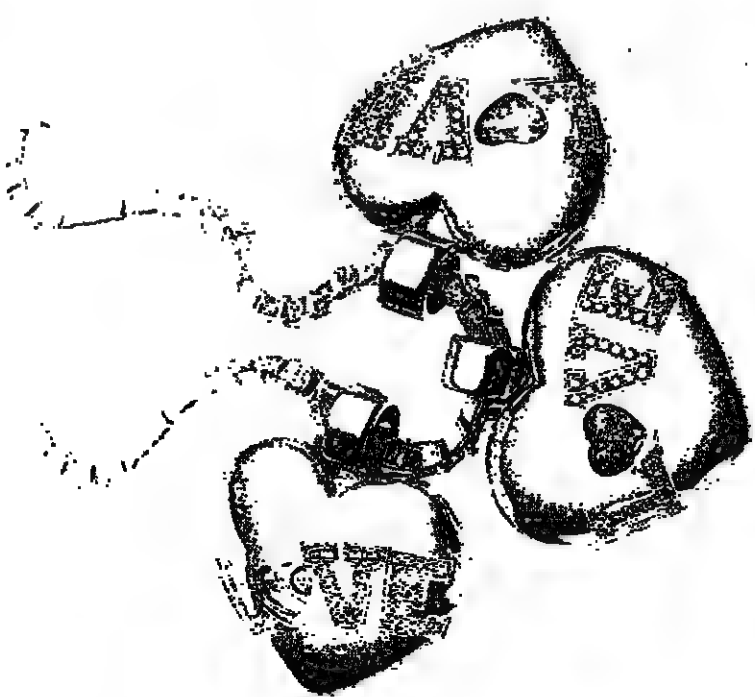
MCC 30% OFF
Hand made, upholstered, leather and fabric furniture

Verano 25% OFF
Hand made, upholstered, leather and fabric furniture

DRESEL HERITAGE 35% OFF
Hand made, upholstered, leather and fabric furniture

AND UP TO 50% OFF
selected Showroom models from our International range. Available for immediate delivery.

Chopard
GENEVE
ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE.



Visit the Chopard 'Espace' at Harrods and discover an exquisite range of fine jewellery and watches, including these pendants in 18ct white gold, each set with 39 diamonds, with a free-moving diamond, or a heart-shaped pink or blue sapphire. Perfect gifts for Valentine's Day.

Fine Jewellery, Ground Floor.

Harrods
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Harrods Limited, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7SL. Telephone 0171-730 1234.

05/12/99 HT 49

Try Enfield, Mr Hague, not Texas

Tories should follow Portillo's progress, says Tim Hames

There has been a lot of talk of late about "panic" in the ranks of the Conservative Party. The Tories have now spent more than six years with less than 30 per cent support in the opinion polls. They have few members, little money and no sense of mission. William Hague has decided to travel to Texas today to see if Governor George W. Bush can offer any answers.

The term "panic", though, is rather inappropriate. It does not begin to describe the situation. Phrases such as "sheer fear", and "total terror" would be much more accurate. The only difference between now and May 1997 is that the number of people living in fear of a Blair victory has diminished. There seems little reason to bet against another Labour landslide.

In all of this the Tory party remains its own worst enemy. It still insists on believing that the last Government was basically a respectable affair, led by a decent man, that was brought down by spills, sleaze and spin-doctors. There are intelligent members of the Shadow Cabinet who believe that John Major was "unlucky" and that after 18 years a heavy defeat was "inevitable". They have no conception of the loathing with which the country held and still holds them.

That public hostility is wholly appropriate. The last Tory administration was an utterly miserable experience. It was, when one considers the circumstances and despite stiff competition from Edward Heath's regime, easily the least attractive Government of this century. Mr Major's main achievement has been to rehabilitate the historical reputations of Arthur Balfour and Neville Chamberlain. Hell, I think this too and I still voted to re-elect the scoundrels. Those who did not demand even more furiously that the Tories openly recognise their failings.

To this national sentiment, Mr Hague and his circle reply that they have said "sorry" several times already. However, a half-mumbled acknowledgement that policies on rate-capping may have misfired, inevitably buried deep in the inside pages of the broadsheets, does not strike most voters as much of a *mea culpa*. What the country wants is for the Conservative leadership to throw itself at the feet of single mothers, small businessmen, homeowners, sexual and ethnic minorities, even Euro-sceptic scribblers, sob their soul out, beg for mercy — and really mean it. Bill Clinton nor George W. Bush is the American whom Mr Hague should be asking for tips on performance, if not sincerity.

The scale of the Conservative problem on cultural attitudes and lifestyle issues today remains as immense as that which Labour suffered on economics throughout the 1980s. In fact, it is worse. For it is at least possible to imagine a capitalist crash on a scale that might drive sentiment back towards more state intervention and regulation. There is no way on earth, by contrast, that working women will

volunteer to return to the kitchen, homosexuals accept being bundled back into the closet or blacks form a quiet queue to take their place on slave ships. The Conservatives are on the wrong side of history on all these issues.

Their attitudes do not only alienate the sections concerned (although they alone constitute one third of the electorate), they also put the Tories out of place with a vast new middle class, affluent and sceptical of state planning, but liberated and liberalised by access to higher education. There is no future for a party that does not know the voters.

At the outset of his leadership it appeared that Mr Hague understood this and was willing to act on it. After Michael Portillo paved the way with his magnificent break with the past at the 1997 party conference, Mr Hague took the chance to emphasise his own support for tolerance and diversity. For one brief shining moment it seemed as if the party of hanging and flogging might be transformed into one of shagging and snogging. At last, the Tory hierarchy seemed willing to sue for peace with the 1960s.

Alas Mr Hague spent last year hedging and retreating. Under attack from the rope, race and repression regiment, the Tory leader instead chose to sue for peace with the moral mullahs of the *Daily Mail* and the Taliban tendency at *The Daily Telegraph*. The familiar sirens of social authoritarianism are sadly once again emerging from Conservative Central Office under the camouflage of "neo-conservatism". Tolerance is merely to be tolerated in a limited form but real social pluralism is not practised.

As a result Mr Hague has forfeited his right fully to attack new Labour on the territory where it is most vulnerable — individual freedom. The Tory leader used the Hoddle saga last week to accuse Tony Blair of "poking his nose into people's lives". Barely 24 hours later he spoke of his intention to tinker with the tax and benefit system so as to rig it in favour of marriage rather than cohabitation. The Conservative alternative to the "nanny state" is then, it seems, to be the "vicar society".

There is but one Conservative of any rank who seems to understand the distance that the party must move to render itself relevant. The rehabilitation and renewal of Mr Portillo stands as a compelling reminder of the condition that the Conservative Party could be in now if Mr Hague had seen off his critics and adopted repentance and revival. It may already be too late in this Parliament to reverse course; if so the Conservatives are heading for another electoral catastrophe. If Mr Hague wants to avoid that fate, he could save time and effort by consulting the phoenix of Enfield Southgate rather than the Crown Prince of Texas.

tim.hames@the-times.co.uk

Mary Ann Sieghart is away.



America on the ropes

Mark Twain, do solemnly swear that I've been to Washington and seen more rascals than there are mules in Mississippi. That Congress has so little to do it has impeached the President for slap and tickle, which as Huck says, is mostly tickle 'cause nobody heard the lady holler.

"How they impeached! They impeached mornin', noon and night, like Baptists on moonshine. They dragged in the girl so folks could see the smokin' gun. That was a mistake, 'cause after that folks began seeing things the President's way. There was many things he stretched. Huck says with a wink, but mostly the truth got out. So off he goes like a jumping frog. There ain't nothing the American people likes more, I reckon, than to feel morally superior to a President. But when we take the trap back to the station, the trapman gazes at his horse's tail and says, 'There ain't no guide to the American joke.'"

Has the impeachment of President Clinton, scheduled to end today, been an American joke? Have we missed the plot? Green with envy at Britain's diet of high-class sex scandals, did Washington stage one of its own? A presidential honey trap was set. A lie was extracted, a perjury proved, a Congress enraged, a President contrite, a sin atoned... and a nation again at peace. It was the sort of stunt that Campbell, Mandelson & Co would have pulled, to get the office over a media lull between Thanksgiving and Superbowl. It was a bit tacky, but nobody ever lost votes for tack. So for God's sake everyone, stop looking so serious. Get the joke.

I like the idea, but having watched hours of the impeachment trial on television I am not sure. It has been a strangely compelling event, and not just for its salacious content. This was the American Constitution rolled out on parade with all the ponderous overkill of a ballistic missile in Red Square. Grim-faced legislators watched it rumble by. It may not terrify the enemy, but it certainly terrified them. Impeachment has been public and painful, but it has been the Constitution. Regiments of lawyers have marched by at vast expense. But this is the Constitution. Once invoked it has a life, and a cost, of its own.

The impeachment of Bill Clinton has been the stupidest trial of all

Clinton's trial was painful, but it has toned up the muscles of democracy

time. The case did not merit the attention of a Dogberry. A village magistrate would have slung it out as vexatious. He would have told the prosecutor to shut up and entrusted the defendant to the mercies of his wife. "I never had sex with that woman," was a lie that could have been mouthed by half of Mr Clinton's predecessors. It would not have been believed, but nor would it have been challenged. The privacies, even the indiscretions, of those in high places once enjoyed

and peace abroad. He has a case to answer. His campaigns have left trails of suspect dealings. He lied to his colleagues and to a Grand Jury. He cannot even face the press. Mr Clinton may defy accountability but he cannot be above the law.

These critics point out that the British have more subtle but no less ruthless ways of holding their chief executive to account. They have the disciplines of the club. If a man gets into Mr Clinton's sort of mess and it goes public, he must either tell a convincing lie or his colleagues visit him and tell him to go. If he is all right by the club he is all right, if not he resigns. The system is effective.

When Margaret Thatcher had to go, her own Cabinet lined up to drive in the knife, like the cast of *Murder on the Orient Express*. In Britain, "irresistible pressure" would soon have forced Mr Clinton's resignation over Monica Lewinsky.

In Britain, separation of powers is within the club. America's separation is formal and external. Its democracy is that of the people, constrained by the law. To his congressional critics, the cause of Mr Clinton's discomfiture may have been trivial, but the outcome was not. He did something every American child is told never to do. He lied under oath to a Grand Jury. He attempted to influence witnesses before a trial. If these crimes are intolerable in a citizen, how much more so in Citizen Number One? There can be no defence of proportionality.

Mr Clinton was duly impeached but found not guilty. He appealed over the head of the Constitution to the people and the people exercised their sovereignty and gave the thumbs-up. They held a de facto plebiscite — a running opinion poll — and that was the end of the matter. The sin was too trivial to justify dismissal. Americans do not

expect their leaders to be gods, even if they pretend to be such. A politician may hold himself up as a role model, the embodiment of personal and family virtue. The public has no time for such pomposity. Do what you are paid to do, it cries. Screw up as a saint and we will call you a schmuck. Screw up on the job, and you go.

In his essay *The Disuniting of America*, the historian Arthur Schlesinger, points to the 'United States' capacity to pull itself back from the brink. It constantly manages to salvage unity from a chaos of "self-criticism, protest, disrespect and irreverence". Its politics seems forever testing itself to destruction, over McCarthyism, racialism, the presidency, censorship, even nuclear war. It drives the world to the edge of the cliff. Then it cries, "It's all right everyone, relax." And each time, American democracy emerges a little stronger.

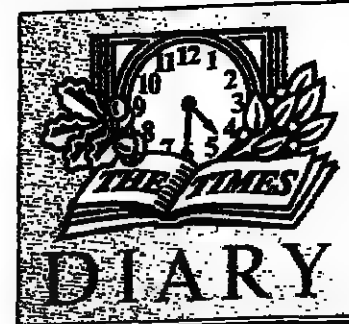
Perhaps that is the same game of trial and error we have just witnessed. What in Britain would be a political row, in America is elevated by the separation of powers into a constitutional one. "Scarcely any political question arises in the United States," wrote de Tocqueville, "that is not resolved, sooner or later, into a judicial question." To him the language of the law became "the vulgar tongue". Impeachment is a classic instance. It is political. It was wheeled out against Richard Nixon, but not against Ronald Reagan over Iran-contragate, far more serious infringement of presidential power than covering up a Monica Lewinsky kiss. What might have been no more than a congressional inquiry into Mr Clinton's business affairs was recklessly handed to a special prosecutor with an obsession for sexual prurience. But it was authorised by the Attorney-General. It was regular. It was the Constitution.

That is one way in which Americans hold their President to account. The result may be messy. It may have led to a surfeit of executive accountability in Washington over the past three months. But that is America's business. Britons cannot scoff. They are suffering an accountability famine. Their legislature can hardly muster more than a pip or a squeak at present. They can hardly cast stones over the Atlantic.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Simon Jenkins



Toff turns

THE toff who took on the Tory leader has threatened to quit Conrad Black's board, so sick is he of *The Daily Telegraph's* attacks. Viscount Cranborne — who resigned as leader of the Tory peers after William Hague condemned his deal with Tony Blair — has written to the proprietor saying that as *The Daily Telegraph* finds him an embarrassment, he might as well quit. "The paper reminds me of Samgrass in *Brideshead Revisited*," Cranborne tells me, referring to the oleaginous Oxford don in Evelyn Waugh's classic. "It has been licking the arse of the aristocracy for so long that it reveals in being able to kick that arse." A recent *Telegraph* portrait of Lord C advised him to "get lost". Which is rather unfair: he is a good bloke.

● SCANDAL at Buckingham Palace? Sir Robert Fellowes disavowed at a private farewell party that he was "the only private secretary to have been held in the Queen's arms". Anxious looks. Then he added that Papa had been agent at Sandringham and Her Majesty had cradled him as a nipper.

Playing safe

PIERCE BROSNAN and Sophie Marceau (below) have opted out of going skiing because of avalanches. They were to film the James Bond flick, *The World Is Not Enough*, in



Chamonix but have been told to hold tight in their ejection seats. "Brosnan," I hear "doesn't want to be shaken and stirred."

● AFTER my exclusive snap of the PM's big brother, I hear promising signs that William Blair will become the new Terry Major-Ball. He is being wooed by James Hughes-Onslow, a scribe friend of the PM, who turned Terry from genome-painter into literary giant. So far, William is running shy.

Yellow peril

TRAFFIC wardens are to be given body armour, in such high esteem are they held. A pilot study in Haringey, a smokey patch of London, will see wardens protected from knives and bullets — after an increase in "contested" tickets. They will be trained by police in self-defence, leading to the prospect of super-wardens "They are public servants," explains Stephen James, a senior nicker. "They have a right to protection." Discuss.



● CAMBRIDGE is to bestow an honour on Miriam Rothschild, 31 years after Oxford made her an Hon DSc. "It's a marvel they thought of me," says the modest 90-year-old bug aficionado, who discovered why fleas jump.

The 39 steps

RAYMOND GUBBAY's enormous set for his forthcoming *Tosca* at the Royal Albert Hall is exhausting his divas. Normally, *Tosca* skips up a few steps before issuing her final cry and throwing herself over a wall. But Susan Bullock or Suzanne Murphy, who will play the part on alternate nights, first have to climb 39 steps. They will then have to drop four storeys, for which the singers will wear a special cloak designed to act as a parachute. "It's a formidable feat," says Raymond. "We have every confidence, but we have stand-by singers just in case."

● VOICE trials for seven places in the choir at Westminster Abbey recently attracted just four boys, one of whom was up to the job. In the past, up to 30 boys would have attended — but the recent organ wars have scared parents away.

JASPER GERARD

'From copper bracelets to sticking pins in one's belly, no alternative medicine seems too silly not to attract some true believers'

"Vanessa show faked!" Shock! Horror! splashed over yesterday's red-top front pages. Vanessa Feltz's chat show is erected by the BBC at the scurrying time of day that is not televisionable by me.

But I had assumed that all who chose to appear on such Oprah Winfrey public breast-beatings were fakes as well as exhibitionists. And that their audiences must have been kicked in their heads by donkeys when young to believe such tosh. So my zipper is unwrapping by the revelations that the "victim" of a violent husband was really a poor player who had never been married. And that two "sisters" said to be locked in a family feud were actually strippogram girls who had first met in the studio. People will believe anything if you breathe it to them with emotion out of the television screen.

But it does come as a bit of a shock when after a century of universal education our national credulity seems to grow rather than diminish. Some of Robert Maxwell's lieutenants claimed (almost plausibly) to be the cleverest men in England. So how came they were so gullible about their boss, who was widely (though cautiously) whispered to be an arrant knave and pirate? Glenn Hoddle should have been sacked for his treacherously irresponsible memoirs. But his inchoate views on reincarnation would have made Plato wince and even the imperturbable Buddha raise an eyebrow, as though painted by Ingres, who was strong on eyebrows.

The hugely self-serving advertising industry is nine-tenths con-trick based on fake and gullibility. Who other than advertising whiz-kids could believe that plastering their labels over

sportsmen, or colouring the heroic Irish rugby pack red, white and blue from the paint advertising an idiotic bank would endear us to their products or services? Presumably advertising must work a bit. But not as much as they pretend. Some gullible fools may drink a brand of lager because it is advertised on the shirt of an England cricketer (or footballer), in the hope that sympathetic magic will make them play as well as their heroes. But there is no alternative medi-

cine, from copper bracelets and sticking pins in oneself, from having pendulums dangled over one's belly to smells and bells, too silly not to attract some true believers. Will sitting under a green pyramid solve one's existential problems? There will be takers, and not just from the *Hellio* magazine ninnies. The hear to his throne is said to talk to his vegetables — but then it's hardly surprising since he gets plenty of practice at state occasions. Our advanced civilisation is as full of hummers, astrologers, charlatans and fakes, with their gullible gulls, as the decadent Rome that excited Juvenal's indignation.

Language is a great creator of myths for the gullible. Such as:

Philip Howard



English spelling is katastrophic; words such as "infer" have single correct and original meanings; French is a logical language, Italian is beautiful, Dutch is ugly. English is difficult (or easy). Crocodiles do not weep. Bulls, like all other cattle, are colour-blind. They cannot tell red from green or blue. The Turin Shroud was repeatedly exposed as a marketing fake as soon as it was first exhibited for money at Lirey in France in 1357. But carbon-dating and other scientific demonstrations of the fraud fall off the belief systems of true believers like water off a car's back.

Marie Antoinette never said "Let them eat cake (brioche, pasty)". It was a proverb long before she was born. And there is no lot of evidence that she ever said it. Nero never fiddled while Rome burned. To start with, the

violin, for which "fiddle" is a colloquialism, was not invented until more than 15 centuries after the fire of Rome in AD64, at which Nero is supposed to have fiddled. And for another, all witnesses record that Nero did everything possible to alleviate the calamity. His imperial gardens were thrown open to the distressed multitude. Tents were erected for them. Free corn and other provisions were distributed. "But all the prudence and humanity affected by Nero were insufficient to preserve him from the popular suspicions."

The Romans had a proverb for this phenomenon. *Mundus vult decipi* — The world wants to be deceived. We still do. The only difference between now and Juvenal's age of credulity is that our quacks today wear Armani suits and ties by Hermès, and carry pagers and personal super-sidition organisers.

OBITUARIES

ULRICA MURRAY SMITH

Ulrica Murray Smith, Joint Master of the Quorn Hunt 1959-85, died on January 22 aged 87. She was born on May 5, 1911.

In 1928 Ulrica Thynne should have been preparing for the traditional season of a London debutante. But her father, Colonel Ulric Thynne, an outstanding horseman and first-class polo player, suggested to his daughter that she might enjoy a month's riding in the shires before the round of balls and parties. So much did she turn out to enjoy it that her London "season" never took place.

Ulrica Marjorie Thynne had a somewhat sketchy education, but came from aristocratic stock. Her grandfather was the younger son of the 3rd Marquess of Bath; her grandmother was Lady Ulrica Seymour, daughter of the 12th Duke of Somerset.

In 1936 she married Tony Murray Smith, a young officer in the Royal Horse Guards, whose passion for hunting matched his bride's. They met in the hunting field, and after their marriage lived the traditional "rotation" of a young Household Cavalry couple, hunting in the winter, polo in the summer and racing in England and France.

The young couple did not allow the outbreak of war to part them, and the fearless Ulrica, who enjoyed any challenge, managed with some ingenuity to follow her husband to Palestine in the spring of 1940. Together with Ruth

Wood (later Lady Halifax) she shared a house at Nathanya, and when their husbands were on leave, they toured the Middle East. They stayed with a sheikh, went camel racing, and the stables at Nathanya produced some outstanding horses. Ulrica was often a winner in ladies' races.

By the autumn of 1940 the few wives who had succeeded in getting into Palestine were told that they had to leave and return to England. This set a further challenge for Ulrica, who set out for India with her friends Ruth Wood, Mary Duchess of Roxburghe and the late Lady Cadogan. They made their base in Aly Khan's house in Bombay.

Much to everyone's astonishment, Ulrica became a close friend of Dina Wadia, daughter of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, head of the Muslim League and later Governor-General of Pakistan.

After the war, the Murray Smiths returned to Leicestershire. The family home, Gumley, was still requisitioned by the Army (and later pulled down), so they moved into a rented house and hunted with the Quorn, the Fernie and Belvoir hunts. Postwar hunting was a rather different picture, with fewer people out and little petrol. Ploughed fields had appeared, and the dreads wire had gone up.

In 1954 Tony Murray Smith was invited to become Master of the Quorn. It was not a particularly opportune moment for him. That year he was not only High Sheriff of



Ulrica Murray Smith in 1979: she was widely loved for her long service as Joint Master of the Quorn

Leicestershire, but had been made Colonel of the Leicestershire Yeomanry. By this time, they were living at Gumley, which was far from the centre of Quorn country. They

moved their horses to the hunt kennels, and spent a great deal of time "on the road". Ulrica took up a new career, showjumping, much to the disapproval of the legendary

Quorn huntsman George Barker, who considered showjumpers "inferior creatures". Ulrica became the perfect consort for her husband in his duties as Master. She never

ceased to attend suppers, skit evenings, pony club events and puppy shows, which became her life for the next 30 years. She accompanied her husband on visits to all the

farmers, and this stood her in good stead when she became a Joint Master five years later. The Murray Smiths became two of the most popular people in the hunting world, and in 1957 they moved to Gaddesby, where Ulrica lived for the rest of her life.

It was a cause of great distress to their friends when Tony Murray Smith left Ulrica in 1960. He later married Sally Hanbury, former wife of James Hanbury, a Master of the Belvoir. But Ulrica, who had already enjoyed one season as Joint Master of the Quorn, made it a condition of their separation and divorce that she would stay on as Joint Master of the Quorn. Tony Murray Smith returned to a house at Gumley and took the Fernie Hounds. For the next 25 years, Ulrica was the senior Joint Master of the Quorn.

Some potential Quorn members were somewhat wary when they heard that the pack had a lady Master, but with her inimitable charm and wit, she always made them extremely welcome, and most became lifelong admirers. "Carpetbaggers" were out as far as Ulrica was concerned, but people who genuinely enjoyed hunting, and showed it, were made to feel totally at home by the Master.

Her hospitality was known far and wide, and when in the 1970s she found herself without a cook, she recruited a young American priest, who hunted with the Quorn, and had the added attraction of being an outstanding cook.

So much poured out of Gaddesby's kitchen until "Father Rick" announced that he had to return to Utah to manage a considerable family fortune. Somewhat annoyed, she told him that he had been sent to Leicestershire to look after her body and soul — and he had only done half of the job. Now she felt she should stay on to work on her soul. Unfortunately he was unable to oblige.

After Alan Whicker had made a television film about the Quorn, he told her that he could not see that it was cruel to the fox, but he did think that it was terribly cruel to the people who rode to hounds. "Leicestershire seemed to echo with the dull crack of breaking bones." She was a regular visitor to Nottingham General Hospital.

In the mid-1970s many people asked her to write a book about her hunting experiences. She published *The Magic of the Quorn* in 1980, with a foreword by the Prince of Wales, who had by then had five seasons with the Quorn, and was captivated by her style of leadership. Ulrica Murray Smith was always quick to praise her fellow Masters, the hunt secretaries and her devoted hunt servants. She was extremely modest about her own, all-important role in the life of the Quorn, and when a succession of parties in her honour followed her retirement in 1985, she was genuinely surprised at the legion of admirers who had followed her career for more than 50 years.

LADY ROBSON OF KIDDINGTON

Baroness Robson of Kiddington, former President of the Liberal Party and a Liberal Democrat spokesman in the House of Lords, died on February 9 aged 79. She was born on August 20, 1919.

SWEDISH-BORN Inga-Stina Robson served the British Liberal cause with distinction for more than 40 years. She fought four parliamentary elections, became president of the party and was an assiduous working poor. Above all, she was instrumental, with her husband, in saving the National Liberal Club after a series of financial and other scandals had threatened the diadem of traditional liberalism with extinction. Grateful members made her their chairman until her death.

Stina Robson — she was never called anything else — was an outstanding figure at the old Liberal Assemblies. She was always beautifully dressed, her designer clothes contrasting with the appearance of the anorak tendency — as, for that matter, did her politics. She never regarded pavement repairs as the route to power, and resisted with all



Lady Robson at Queen Charlotte's Ball in 1990. She chaired the hospital's board of governors

her energy the growing radicalisation of the party. Her deep, sometimes husky voice, the result of chain-smoking, with remnants of her Swedish accent, delivered speeches

which matched the elegance of her clothes.

She was a loyal supporter of Jeremy Thorpe throughout his leadership of the party and beyond. During the Thorpe

years she was a prominent Liberal hostess, and many decisions about party strategy were taken at her home, Kiddington Hall in Oxfordshire.

After her education in Stockholm, she joined the Swedish Foreign Office, which sent her to London at the beginning of the war. She met and married Sir Lawrence Robson, who was to become a highly successful City figure, and thus, as a British subject, she was enabled to work at the Ministry of Information.

During the 1950s her husband's thoughts turned to politics, and he was chosen to stand as the Liberal candidate for the constituency of Eye. However, at almost the last moment his developing business interests prevented him from standing, so his wife took his place. It was a hopeless task. Eye had been a Liberal seat in the past, held by Edgar (later Lord) Granville, but by 1955 he was fighting as the Labour candidate against the Tory incumbent. Predictably enough, the Conservatives won.

She fought the seat once more in 1959 against the same two opponents, and again she came bottom of the poll. She was also third in two subsequent election attempts, when she stood for Gloucester in 1964 and 1966. She had made sufficient impact, however, to become chairman of her party in 1970. That was the year she entered Parliament as a life peer.

In the Lords, as in her party, she was in the minority in a man's world, but this never affected her. She knew more about business than most men — her wide financial interests, which she could quote the price of many shares — and as the owner of a large estate in Scotland she was able to discuss farming as an expert.

Stina Robson's interests, however, were not confined to party politics. She was chairman of the board of governors of Queen Charlotte's Hospital and the Chelsea Hospital for 14 years, and from 1974 to 1982 she was chairman of the South West Thames Regional Health Authority. Her two interests coincided when she was appointed Liberal Democrat spokesman on health in the Lords. She attended the Upper House regularly until nearly the end of her life, when she was prevented by osteoporosis. Her husband died in 1982. She leaves a son and two daughters.

BETH WAGSTAFF



Wagstaff seen last year: she combined political wiles and professional judgment

Beth Wagstaff, Assistant Chief Executive of Hertfordshire County Council and founder of the Lavender Trust, died of cancer on January 29 aged 39. She was born on September 3, 1959.

LOCAL government has never been the dreary, dusty world that its detractors portray, but the death of Beth Wagstaff has certainly robbed the municipal scene of one of its brightest personalities. Her star shone brightly because she combined the wiles of a ward politician with the professional judgment of a local authority officer and the passion of a believer in local democracy.

She played a key role in the battles between London local authorities and the Conservative Government in the mid-1980s. As a councillor in the London Borough of Lewisham, she was in the forefront of the rate-capping dispute, in which local councils refused to set a rate in an attempt to avoid cuts in services. She was a firm advocate of equal rights for women, helping to set up one of local government's first women's committees.

But Wagstaff was no left-wing automaton. Her warmth and sense of humour charmed diehard Socialists and backwoods Tories in equal measure. She was then offered a communications post by Hertfordshire County Council, where she was swiftly promoted to assistant chief executive. Four years ago breast cancer was diagnosed and she began a battle to improve not only her own condition, but that of others. Because breast cancer is more common in

older women, the needs of sufferers like Wagstaff, who have careers and children, are often ignored or misunderstood. She founded the Lavender Trust to put that right. Despite being seriously ill, she was tireless in her efforts on behalf of the charity, which was set up in memory of her friend the journalist Ruth Picardie, whose own struggles with breast cancer were recorded in a series of articles in *The Observer*.

Wagstaff enlisted the support of pop stars such as Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart, and Pink Floyd's Dave Gilmour, and the designer florist Paula Pryke, and as a result the trust has raised £200,000 in less than eight months. Her own fight against cancer was the subject of a Channel 4 documentary.

Bethany Wagstaff was born in Redruth, Cornwall, and educated at Falmouth Comprehensive. She came to London as a student at Goldsmiths College, where she became the first woman president of the union. On graduation, she worked for two Labour MPs, Chris Price and Chris Smith (now the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport), before working for the GLC. She is survived by her husband, Jon Lansman, and by three children.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FOR SALE

RESIDENTIAL Properties Available
Call 0171 725 3434

THE TIMES - 1997 - 1999 edition
Call 0171 725 3434

WINTER SPORTS

THE TOTAL choice between the
Call 0171 725 3434

FLATSHARE

BARONS Court House room to
Call 0171 725 3434

FLATSHARE (see 1997) Best flat
Call 0171 725 3434

FLIGHTS

DIRECTORY

8 HOLIDAY BROCHURES
ONE PHONE CALL

- Algarve
- Canary Islands
- Cyprus
- Gibraltar
- Gozo
- Jersey
- Malta
- Majorca
- Morocco
- Oporto
- Porto Santo
- Spain
- Tunisia

CADOGAN HOLIDAYS

Visit Best Specialist
Short Hand Tour Operator 1997-1998-1999

24HR BROCHURE HOTLINE
0990 17 18 19

http://www.cadoganholidays.com

FLATSHARE

RESIDENTIAL Properties Available
Call 0171 725 3434

THE TIMES - 1997 - 1999 edition
Call 0171 725 3434

WINTER SPORTS

THE TOTAL choice between the
Call 0171 725 3434

FLATSHARE

BARONS Court House room to
Call 0171 725 3434

FLATSHARE (see 1997) Best flat
Call 0171 725 3434

FLIGHTS

DIRECTORY

8 HOLIDAY BROCHURES
ONE PHONE CALL

- Algarve
- Canary Islands
- Cyprus
- Gibraltar
- Gozo
- Jersey
- Malta
- Majorca
- Morocco
- Oporto
- Porto Santo
- Spain
- Tunisia

CADOGAN HOLIDAYS

Visit Best Specialist
Short Hand Tour Operator 1997-1998-1999

24HR BROCHURE HOTLINE
0990 17 18 19

http://www.cadoganholidays.com

FLIGHTS

DIRECTORY

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

FLIGHTS

DIRECTORY

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

ANNOUNCEMENTS

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

ALEXANDER SMITH

Former Flight Lieutenant
Call 0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

0171 725 3434

ALEXANDER SMITH



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12 1999

BT shares soar on back of Internet boom



Bonfield: plenty of things to do

By RAYMOND SNODDY

BT SHARES shot up by more than 10 per cent yesterday as the telecommunications company revealed a dramatic expansion of Internet use and the best growth in turnover since 1990.

Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, said the Internet now accounted for 15 per cent of all local call minutes and the percentage had more than doubled since last year.

"This will probably go up to 25

per cent over the next year or so. It is the fastest growing part of the marketplace," said Sir Peter.

Internet calls helped to lift the inland telephone volume increase in the third quarter to 8 per cent compared with 6 per cent last time. Despite increasing competition, growth in international call volume accelerated to 9 per cent from 8 per cent, although price-cutting meant revenue was only steady.

BT also said it was fighting back

against the cable industry and there had been a 30,000 net loss of lines in the quarter, compared with a 220,000 in the same period last year.

"More than 100,000 customers came back to BT in the third quarter and more than 280,000 in the nine months to December," Sir Peter said.

The results were ahead of market expectations and BT shares rose 10 1/2p to £10.09.

In the third quarter revenues rose by 14.7 per cent to £4.68 billion. In

the nine months the rise was 11.7 per cent to £13.3 billion.

Third-quarter profits dropped to £553 million before tax from £1 billion but that was almost entirely due to the payment of \$465 million (£287 million) in the third quarter last year after the break-up of BT's proposed merger with MCI. Over the nine months pre-tax profits rose from £2.53 billion to £3.45 billion. Third-quarter earnings were 9.3p a share, making 25.6p for the nine months.

Sir Peter ruled out either a share buyback or an exceptional distribution to shareholders even though BT has gearing of just 6 per cent.

"We are not under any shareholder pressure. This is a dynamic, expanding industry and there are plenty of things to do," said Sir Peter. They include more opportunities in Japan, South-East Asia and the Indian sub-continent.

Tempus, page 30

Business
Today

Commentary:	
A battle for change	29
Stock market:	
Six-day losing streak ends	36
Equity prices:	32
Unit trusts:	34

Worst result
for Shell
in a century

By CARL MORTSHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

SHELL produced the worst results in its century-long history yesterday, reporting a 95 per cent fall in net income, with its chairman admitting that his job is now on the line after the oil group allowed its competitors to overtake it.

Maarten van den Bergh, managing director of Royal Dutch/Shell, reported net income for 1998 of just \$350 million (£211 million) and a fourth-quarter loss of \$3.7 billion and \$4.4 billion in special charges. Mark Moody-Stuart, chairman of Shell Transport & Trading, said that a 53 per cent decline in fourth-quarter net income, before special items, to \$818 million was worse than results reported recently by US rivals. He said: "What is inescapable is that we have allowed the competition to overtake us."

But while he said there was a new determination within Shell, Mr Moody-Stuart indicated the pressure is growing on his position. "If we produce lousy results all this year, people will be hunting for my head," he said.

Despite the collapse in earnings, Mr Moody-Stuart said the company would continue to grow its dividend which is up 3 per cent to 13.5p for Shell Transport investors. "The group is not under financial strain. We generate cash at a prodigious rate, around \$15 billion per year, 2 1/2 times greater than the dividends paid."

The Anglo-Dutch company

was besieged on all fronts last year with a collapse in oil prices and chemical and refining margins. Mr Moody-Stuart painted a bleak picture of the outlook. He said: "We think \$10 oil will continue for some time."

Referring to the squeeze on investment in exploration, he pointed out that no significant uplift was in sight. "The effect of deferred investment has been to prevent the oil price from falling further," he said. He said that Shell's exploration budget has been cut from \$1.5 billion to less than \$1 billion with \$1.7 billion of capital expenditure on hold pending improvement in conditions.

Tempus, page 30

However, he insisted that Shell was well placed to survive with low oil prices: "What you need at \$10 is access to low-cost oil. We have very substantial reserves in Nigeria and we are working on access to the Middle East."

Oil products was the only sector to improve, with a 54 per cent gain in the fourth quarter mainly through the benefits of European restructuring.

Shell's fourth-quarter net income loss included \$4.4 billion of special charges relating to asset writedowns and redundancies highlighted in December when the company said it would sell 40 per cent of its chemical assets. Mr Moody-

Stuart indicated that about half of the \$4 billion plus writedowns were attributable to Shell Oil, the group's US arm. These include a \$646 million writedown of Tejas Gas, acquired a year ago, and \$1.6 billion relating to sale and restructuring of Acra, the Californian joint venture and Alura, a Texas/New Mexico business, both onshore US production assets. Shell Oil has always jealously guarded its corporate independence despite losing its separate US share listing in 1984. However, Mr Moody-Stuart said there were no plans for a more complete integration of Shell Oil.

Rioting and communal violence in Nigeria prevented Shell from increasing oil output last year but the company is still forging ahead with plans to invest \$8.5 billion in the African sector. A decision is expected shortly on a multi-billion-dollar expansion of its liquefied natural gas project. Shell's dependence on cheap Nigerian hydrocarbons will increase sharply over the next decade as production growth slows in the higher cost North Sea and US fields.

Shell's chemical business suffered a 30 per cent collapse in profit last year to \$452 million, with a severe decline in cracker margins and polypropylene margins. The company is selling a \$2 billion half-share in its Montell polypropylene business, acquired about a year ago.



Maarten van den Bergh yesterday announcing the profits fall

Barclays
boosted by
arrival of
US banker

By CAROLINE MERRELL

BARCLAYS shares rose by 5 per cent yesterday as the City welcomed the appointment of Mike O'Neill, an American banker, to succeed Martin Taylor, who left abruptly at the end of last year.

The appointment ended two months of uncertainty at Barclays. The share price has been largely static since Mr Taylor's departure.

Mr O'Neill, unknown in the UK, has a history of leading corporate restructuring at banks in the US. Most recently he was involved in the £80 billion merger between Nationsbank and Bank of America, where he was in charge of "wealth management".

He joins on a starting salary of more than £2 million, excluding share options. He will also benefit from £5 million of Barclays shares if he stays with the bank for three years.

Mr O'Neill said that it was unlikely that he would take any significant decisions at the bank for six months because he wanted to get to know the business first. He officially joins the bank on March 26. He refused to rule out the disposal of Barclays Capital, the bank's troubled investment banking subsidiary, but claimed that it could have a role in the bank.

Analysts also welcomed the appointment, with many believing that an internal candidate would not bring about the changes that are needed.

Sir Peter Middleton, group chief executive, said: "We considered around 20 candidates in total. All the executives were considered seriously. They have huge jobs to do, they have all been in their jobs for less than a year." Mr O'Neill was finally chosen from a shortlist of four candidates.

Mr O'Neill said that he saw the UK banking market following the US, with a decline in business transacted through high street branches and increasing emphasis on PC banking and banking over the Internet. He said: "I am joining a strong management team and together I am sure we will be able to build on the group's existing strengths."

Sir Peter said he did not believe that Mr O'Neill's appointment would lead to any immediate high level departures at the bank. He said that the bank was continuing to search for a finance director. Mr O'Neill is to be involved in the final selection for the post. Sir Peter said: "Throughout his career Mike O'Neill has demonstrated his ability to improve the performance and increase the value of complex institutions."

Barclays refused to reveal the size of Mr Taylor's severance package from the bank. A spokeswoman said that it would be shown in the bank's report and accounts, which will be published after the results are revealed next week.

Commentary, page 29
Profile, page 31EDS announces
£10bn MCI deal

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

DICK BROWN, the former chief executive of Cable & Wireless, yesterday lived up to expectations of big changes at his new company, America's Electronic Data Systems, when he announced a \$17 billion (£10 billion) deal with MCI WorldCom.

The alliance with MCI, one of America's biggest telecom companies, is Mr Brown's first big deal since arriving last month at EDS, the computer services company founded in 1962 by the American billionaire Ross Perot.

The core of the deal is the \$1.65 billion purchase by EDS of MCI Systemhouse, which specialises in running other company's computers, but the

agreement is far broader. EDS and MCI will swap computer services and telecommunications outsourcing contracts, allowing both companies to concentrate on areas in which they have expertise.

MCI will pay EDS up to \$7 billion to run its computer and software systems through to 2010. In return, EDS will pay MCI WorldCom as much as \$8.5 billion for phone services over the same period. The deal also involves the two companies swapping up to 13,000 staff in the US and Canada.

Since Mr Brown's appointment to EDS was announced in December, the company's shares have risen more than 20 per cent.

PRESCRIPTIONS
FOR THE
NHS

THE National Health Service is too important to be left in the hands of politicians and doctors so *The Times* has asked top business people to come to the rescue. How can the NHS reconcile ever-increasing customer demands with a limited budget? Every day next week in *Business News*, business leaders will give their prescriptions for how the NHS can be reformed. They include Sir David Barnes, of AstraZeneca, Sir Richard Sykes, of Glaxo Wellcome and Greg Dyke, of Pearson TV. Their radical thoughts will take the debate on the reform of the NHS to a new level. Health Secretary Frank Dobson should be paying attention.

Greenspan urges
US bank reform

By SAIED SHAH

ALAN GREENSPAN, the Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, yesterday set himself on a collision course with the Clinton Administration by reaffirming his support for legislation to ramp up American financial services laws that he sees as being outdated.

Testifying before the House of Representatives Banking Committee, Mr Greenspan said that it was crucial to overhaul Depression-era laws that prohibit banks, brokerage firms and insurance companies from entering each other's business.

The legal barriers between different sectors of the financial services industry have put

the merger of Citibank and Travelers Group on hold.

"Unless soon repealed, the archaic statutory barriers to efficiency could undermine the competitiveness of American financial institutions," Mr Greenspan said, adding that changing the laws would greatly benefit consumers.

Mr Greenspan said that change was necessary because of the proliferation of new financial products that have increasingly combined the characteristics of banking, insurance and securities products into single financial instruments.

The Treasury fears that the proposed legislation will weaken its regulatory authority.

Lonrho chiefs' bonus
for flawed demerger

By JASON NISSE

FIVE directors of Lonrho, the mining group planning to rename itself Lornmin, are sharing bonus payments of almost £300,000 for work on the demerger of Lonrho Africa last year, the latest accounts reveal.

The demerger has not been wholly successful, with Lonrho Africa shares plunging after their listing and the company facing an attempt to oust its chairman and two of its directors.

One of those directors, Stephen Walls, was given a £70,000 bonus for his work on the demerger, despite be-

ing only a non-executive director. He was criticised earlier this week for working on a possible bid for Servisair while also being a non-executive director.

The largest beneficiary of the bonus payments was Nick Morrell, Lonrho's chief executive. He received £165,000, taking his total package to £630,000, though some of this bonus was also related to the sale of Princess Hotels. Sir John Craven, Lonrho's chairman, was given a bonus of £30,000.

The accounts, for the year to September 31 1998, also reveal that Terrence Wilkinson, the head of mining, was paid £72,000 in lieu of holidays.

Lycos bid war looms
as Diller is rebuffedFROM ANDREW BUTCHER
IN NEW YORK

BARRY DILLER, the entertainment and home shopping mogul, has run into trouble in his attempt to expand his shopping empire to the Internet.

CMGI, the biggest shareholder in Lycos, the Internet search directory, last night rejected a \$20 billion (£12.4 billion) merger bid by Mr Diller's USA Networks. The prospect of a bid battle sent Lycos shares up 20 per cent.

Mr Diller plans to combine his Home Shopping Network and telephone ticket seller Ticketmaster in a

merger with Lycos. The combined company would have had revenues of \$15 billion in 1998.

Lycos shareholders would then own 30 per cent of the new company. But CMGI, which holds 20 per cent of Lycos, argues Lycos shareholders will get only a modest premium in the merger, despite the recent buying frenzy in Internet stocks.

Mr Diller, 57, who went from working in the mailroom of a Hollywood talent agency to heading a movie studio and a TV network, is a legendary figure in US media circles, who is leading the struggle to ignite TV with the Internet.

Confused?

What will you do with a lump sum
of £5,000, £25,000, or £250,000?PEPs, Unit Trusts, Building Societies*, TESSAs*...
with several thousand investment options to choose
from, no wonder you're confused!

You need UNBIASED advice.

Investor Intelligence, one of the UK's largest groups
of independent financial advisers, can help you.

Simply call us FREE anytime on

0500-10-10-14

or return the Freepost coupon.

INVESTOR
INTELLIGENCE

To: Investor Intelligence, FREEPOST, SCE 388, Slough SL1 4BY

Name

PHONE

Address

Postcode

Only Postcodes 100-199 are eligible for
freepost and return to the nearest office

TM 1/2 CON

The value of shares & the income from them can fall as well as rise. If you withdraw from this investment in the early years, you may not get back the full amount invested. The rate of interest payable on deposits is subject to change. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is the independent regulator of the financial services industry in the UK. It is not a government department. The FSA is not a bank and does not provide financial services. The FSA is not a company and does not have shareholders. The FSA is not a charity and does not have trustees. The FSA is not a public body and does not have a right of appeal. The FSA is not a court of law and does not have the power to enforce its decisions. The FSA is not a government department and does not have the power to make laws. The FSA is not a company and does not have shareholders. The FSA is not a charity and does not have trustees. The FSA is not a public body and does not have a right of appeal. The FSA is not a court of law and does not have the power to enforce its decisions. The FSA is not a government department and does not have the power to make laws.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

THE WRANGLE over whether paperboys and papergirls will get paid for holidays under the European Working Time Directive is tricky for Ian McCartney, the Industry Minister, whose brief includes em-

Now his boss, Stephen Byers, Trade and Industry Secretary, is determined that paperboys should not be paid for holidays as per the directive.

The seemingly innocuous paperboy/girl has hit a nerve as employers start to wrestle

with the directive, which came into force in October. News-agents seeking guidance from the DTI were told that paper deliverers are covered if aged over 17. If younger, they are not classed as workers.

The teenage deliverers' dilemma is the tip of a potential iceberg. The directive has been branded unclear and a recipe

The directive limits the working week to 48 hours and sets standards for employment, such as a right to holidays. All workers now have the right to three weeks of holiday, rising to four next year. This applies to part-time workers on a pro

rata basis regardless of how many hours they do, if they have worked for their employer for 13 weeks. So, the directive's scope could be huge, taking in part-time shelf stackers in supermarkets, home and office cleaners and stand-in staff.

A judicial review is already looming: if successful, the challenge will broaden the applica-

tion even further. The holidays issue is but one. There is the concept of working time. Does it include travelling to work or time spent at business lunches? Are people covered if working abroad for a British firm? These are the first shots in an exercise that will see many lawyers working way over the maximum working week.

OUT-OF-TOWN retailers will face a tougher battle to open new stores after the Government yesterday tightened planning guidelines. The move by Richard Caborn, Minister for the Regions and Planning, forces local authorities to be more rigorous in ensuring that retailers prove they have looked at all available sites in town before they try to build new shops out of town. Retailers must also prove a need for the new outlet to be built. Extensions to existing sites will also have to be treated as new planning applications, Mr Caborn said in a parliamentary answer to Alan Johnson, Labour MP for Kingston upon Hull and West Hesse. That means retailers will not be able to secure permission for one site and then hope to build on extra capacity. Many large out-of-town retailers have sought large extensions to existing stores in order to dodge prohibitive planning policy.

Mr Caborn said the extra guidelines were intended to strengthen existing policy following recent litigation from would-be developers. He added that planning policy "aims to sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of our existing town centres by focusing new investment, particularly for retail and leisure uses within city, town and district centres".

EUROPE'S Monetary Affairs Commissioner yesterday said that the EU's forecast for European economic growth this year would probably be revised down at the end of March. Yves-Thibault de Silguy added that the extent of the downward revision to the forecast would depend on the level of confidence among European consumers. In October, the European Commission predicted 1999 growth for the European Union as a whole at 2.4 per cent and at 2.6 per cent for the 11 countries in the eurozone. The next forecast is due on March 30.

THE campaign to keep duty-free shopping alive was dealt a fresh blow yesterday as it emerged that an internal European Commission report has rejected pleas to extend the system for another five years. A leaked version of the report circulating around Brussels describes Britain's case for extending the duty-free system on the grounds of protecting jobs as "extremely weak". It also warns that any delay in scrapping duty-free shopping could leave the EU open to legal challenge from retailers. The report will be presented to European finance ministers on March 15, before they vote on whether to extend the system.

WACE, the company which is set to fall into the hands of Shaw, the white knight from the US, after fighting off the unwelcome attentions of Photobit, said the restructuring of the company from a printing company into a graphic imaging business has been a success. The company yesterday announced its full-year results for 1998, booking a loss of £40 million against a £70 million loss last year – a loss per share of 56.4p. Shaw's agreed offer values the company at 70p a share. Derek Ashley, chief executive, said: "The outlook is positive for the group, but there is still work to be done."

A FORMER personnel director of Veba, Germany's fourth-largest industrial company, was yesterday jailed for 33 months for defrauding it of DM240,000 (£85,714). Heinz Gentz 67, was tried on four counts, including charges that he had work done on his private swimming pool and garden which he had paid by the company or its insurers, using false invoices. Gentz faces a second trial on charges that in 1994 he bought off the owner of a bathroom equipment and plumbing firm, who knew about the false invoices, by having Veba buy his company for far more than its market value.

SYTYNER GROUP, the car dealership chain chaired by Frank Sytner, the former British touring car champion, has bought the Cooper in the City BMW dealership from Inchcape for up to £2.1 million. Sytner, which is already the UK's largest seller of BMWs, is paying £715,000 immediately, with £1.3 million in deferred payments. It plans to relocate Cooper, though not too far from its current site in the north of the City of London.

BY PAULA HAWKINS

THE number of people facing hardship in retirement has risen sharply, warns a report out today. The Fleming Pension Map of Britain estimates that 13 million people will face hardship after their working days end. This compares with ten million in 1996.

The study conducted by Flemings Investment Trust Services shows that women are most likely to experience financial difficulties when they retire because they are more likely to take career breaks and because they live longer. Two years ago 24 per cent of working women would have faced poverty in retirement. That figure has now risen to 29 per cent.

The Flemings report also shows that men are worse off in retirement than they used to be. The percentage of men who would live in comfort in retirement fell from 23 per cent in 1997 to 17 per cent in 1999, while the proportion who would retire below the poverty line (defined by Flemings as a pension which represents less than 25 per cent of final salary) rose from 10 per cent to 16 per cent.

ment's Green Paper sought to tackle with its proposals for stakeholder pensions.

While Flemings welcomed the plans, saying that the reforms "will impact on the lowest paid and those who have suffered from career breaks", it gave warning that "for some, it will only improve their position slightly, especially if they are close to retirement".

The report concludes that the number of people taking out pension schemes to supplement the State's provision is not rising quickly enough. "Despite several decades of encouragement of occupational pension schemes, the coverage of schemes has risen only modestly," the report states.

The report points out that the Government's plans "focus on the employed and offer little for the self-employed", another group which faces most hardship in retirement. While 44 per cent of employees are not making sufficient contributions for their future, 64 per cent of self-employed people are not putting away enough for their retirement.

Ian Overage, marketing manager at Flemings, said: "As interest rates are still falling, the number of older people who will not have sufficient income in their retirement will rise."



By JASON NISSE

PPP, the healthcare group owned by GRE, is facing an Office of Fair Trading investigation after 20 cardiologists wrote complaining that they be allowed to refer patients to the new £45 million Heart Hospital in Harley Street.

ing that PPP is restricting their choice in a bid to boost usage of PPP's own four Central London hospitals, the Wellington, Harley Street Clinic, Princess Grace and Portland. The cardiologists say that other leading health insurers, such as BUPA and Norwich Union, are hap-

The new hospital has been developed by Parkway Group Healthcare of Singapore. Its management board is chaired by Sir Richard Needham, the former Conservative minister, who said yesterday that PPP is

trying to block competition because there is an excess of cardiology beds in London.

PPP denies it is restricting competition and said it is not including the Heart Hospital in its list of recommended hospitals because of the limited service it provides.

ABB Asea Brown Boveri, the Swiss-Swedish engineering group, hopes to catapult itself into the ranks of Europe's most popular companies by seeking a secondary listing of its new shares on the London Stock Exchange (Paul Armstrong writes).

ABB, which is capitalised at about \$20 billion (£12 billion), aims to clean up its four different share structures.

Goran Lindahl, the ABB president, said that the sweeping changes were aimed at increasing the liquidity of ABB shares, raising the prospect of the company being included in leading European indices.

WOLFGANG REITZLE, the BMW executive ousted last week, is believed to be ready to join Ford, the US car manufacturer (Siegfried Aufderbeck writes).

Herr Reitzle is tipped to become Ford's head of development in Europe, responsible for the Aston Martin, Jaguar and Volvo brands.

Both Ford and BMW declined to comment yesterday. On Wednesday Jac Nasser, Ford's chief executive, said at the Chicago Auto Show he did not want to comment while Herr Reitzle was still negotiating terms of his departure from BMW. "I think Wolfgang is a tremendous executive and leader," Mr Nasser said.

	2004	2003
Australia S.	2,660	2,482
Austria S.	20,622	20,688
Belgium S.	6,768	6,768
Canada S.	2,940	2,870
Cyprus S.	0.6790	0.0052
Denmark S.	1,041	1,041
Egypt	9,748	8,133
Egyptian Libya	9,111	8,348
France S.	5,973	5,973
Germany Dem	2,979	2,737
Greece Dr.	-990	2,551
India S.	1,041	1,041
Indonesia	1,768	1,243
Italy S.	1,041	1,041
Japan S.	6,987	1,041
Italy S.	9,863	8,726
Japan S.	1,041	1,041
Libya	0.692	0.003
Malaysia S.	2,384	3,991
New Zealand S.	1,041	1,041
Norway S.	10,123	27,09
Poland S.	3,103	2,864
Spain S.	251.10	233.21
Sweden S.	12.63	12.63
Switzerland S.	2,458	2,380
United Kingdom	568.99	532.66
U.S.A.	1,041	1,041

Rates for small denomination banknotes
 not supplied by Barclays Bank
 to British's cashiers
 to British's cashiers
 Rates as

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on 23rd April, 1999 for the preparation of warrants for a Final dividend for the year 1998 of 8.2p per 25p Ordinary Share. If approved at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 7th May, 1999 the dividend will be paid on 14th May, 1999.

For transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar: Lloyds TSB Registrars, The Causeway, Worthing, West Sussex BN99 6DA, not later than 3 p.m. on 23rd April, 1999.

The Coupon to be presented for the above dividend will be No. 203 which must be deposited at Lloyds TSB Registrars, Corporate Actions, Ground Floor, P.O. Box 1000, Antholin House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL (not later than 23rd April, 1999 to receive payment on 14th May, 1999) or may be surrendered through Messieurs Lazard Frères et Cie, 121 boulevard Haussmann, 75382, Paris Cedex 08.

By Order of the Board
Miss J.E. Munsiff
Secretary

Shell Centre,
London SE1 7NA
11th February, 1999

SPORT
Vision
WEEKEND
metro
the times
magazine
meg@

THE TIMES

Ex-marine must battle for change



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

No wonder Barclays had to concentrate its search for a new chief executive in the United States. There would be few UK contenders able to put up £5 million to secure themselves a job. This arrangement gives a whole new meaning to the concept of signing-on fees.

But Michael O'Neill does boast other qualifications for the role apart from a healthy bank balance. He has practical experience in retail banking and asset management and, judging by Martin Taylor encountered, his experiences working with the Marines intelligence service during the Vietnam war will also be useful.

Mr O'Neill is being hailed as someone who can engineer change without occasioning animosity. If he could do that, then he probably deserves his salary package and more. But a quick review of the organisation may persuade him that taking out, at an early stage, a few of the potential obstacles to change would be a wise move. Mr Taylor spent too long trying to persuade people within the bank to work with him rather than against him.

The first task awaiting Mr O'Neill is to appoint a finance director with whom he sees eye to eye. His predecessor interviewed hordes of potential candidates but found none suitable. The City would be reassured if the incoming American were able to settle on someone who was al-

ready a known and respected figure in UK corporate life. If not necessarily in banking. Perhaps the signing-on fee could be waived to get the right person.

Mr O'Neill does not look like the sort of person who will be bounced into taking any premature decisions on the structure of the group, despite murmurs from the City that institutional investors would like to see the retail bank demerged from what remains of Barclays' foray into investment banking. Mr Taylor could make a fine intellectual case for the split, but the reality is more blurred. The treasury operations, for instance, are ravelled together, to the mutual benefit of both sides.

Despite its agonies of late, stumbling over almost every available banking banana skin around the world, Barclays remains one of Britain's leading retail banks, and it is on that which Mr O'Neill can build. If he can keep the two internal candidates for the chief executive's job on side, it will be to his advantage. They have presumably noted that he only has to stay three years to trigger his jackpot payout so, at least for one of them, stardom may yet be possible.

They will, however, have to keep on the right side of someone

other than Mr O'Neill. The formidable Sir Peter Middleton now moves into the chairman's seat at Barclays. The former Treasury mandarin and BZW chairman will be rather more pro-active than the hapless Andrew Buxton. Even Sir Peter's admirers refer to him as Machiavelli. After a few months as acting chief executive of Barclays, he will have clear views on how the job should be done.

Messing up the jobs market

Forget the millennium bug just for a moment. The bugs in the European Working Time Directive are already appearing four months after the Brussels-inspired reform first came into effect.

The fuss over paid holidays for paperboys and papergirls is delightfully nonsensical, unless you happen to be one of those who may lose their part-time job as a result. The bigger impact is

likely to be felt in encouraging more people to work for agencies or as freelance self-employed.

Giving more rights to those who have least is certainly a worthy cause but the implications have not been fully thought through. If agency or casual work garners the same perks as the once sought-after staff job, at higher rates of pay, the National Health Service will soon find itself needing even more agency nurses, boosting its pay bill for no good reason.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that holiday rights, for instance, are giving agencies a chance to jack up their charging rates. There are shortages to exploit in schools as well as hospitals.

At least ministers can claim that these principles were imposed by the EU. There would be no excuse for failing to work through the detailed application of the minimum wage or of the complex provisions of the Fairness at Work Bill. These are generated at home, after long gestation through Labour's policy de-

velopment process, the election manifesto and long preparation in Whitehall.

The minimum wage is already in danger of killing off the au pair and halting the growth of home childcare. These effects may not have been intended. Fairness at Work aims to take the protection of part-time and agency workers much further than the Brussels directive. Have ministers worked out the implications of promoting these ways of working?

For private employers, enhanced rights for maternity and paternity leave are causing consternation in some quarters, not least rights to take extended additional unpaid leave. People on low incomes cannot afford to take long unpaid leave. Those affected are likely to be key senior employees who can only be replaced at enormous short-term cost. The smaller the employer covered by the law, the harsher the impact of these seemingly civilised provisions.

Even new Labour understand-

ably feels it has obligations to act fast in this area. Like the Tories, however, it would do better to move one step at a time and digest the consequences.

To put things in perspective, Sudan's Government finally started to admit yesterday that slavery is rife and uncontrolled there.

Towns with a hard centre

The Minister for the Regions and Planning, Richard Caborn, has made no secret of his distaste for out-of-town development. Consumers may like to hop in their cars and head for the retail parks and regional shopping centres but Mr Caborn wants to direct them right back into town centres. Now he has announced a further toughening of the planning regime aimed at ensuring that he gets his way.

The onus is now on retailers to prove that they have looked at all available sites in town, and found nothing to suit, before any out-of-town development can be contemplated. Since, over time, the focus of any town centre tends to move, there are few that do not have a supply of empty retail space, dejected, covered in fly-posters and long de-

served by shoppers. If Mr Caborn hopes that retailers will be persuaded to forsake the retail parks to recolonise these barren areas, he is doomed to disappointment. Unless, that is, he can persuade local authorities to back his crusade with cash and plenty of car parks. Only if considerable investment is channelled back into town centres will the retailers follow.

In the meantime, those schemes that won planning permission in the pre-Caborn days can only benefit from his clampdown. He will succeed in doing for retail property what the Barber ban did for offices. The investors who have just taken stakes in Bluewater Park must be very grateful to the Minister. The development opens its doors next month and customers will love it.

The wages of sin

RESEARCH by Flemings produces some frightening statistics on the millions for whom retirement will bring poverty. The Government knows but, even allowing for the stakeholder pension and the birth of Lisa, it is avoiding the real issue. Unless the state pension rises or people are compelled to save more, millions of elderly people will live in poverty. We hear much of those who were persuaded to opt out of occupational schemes and put their money into private pensions. Given the choice, however, many took their money out of occupational schemes — and spent it.

Airtours on lookout for acquisitions

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

AIRTOURS, the travel group that has built up a £500 million cash pile, is continuing to look for acquisitions in Europe and North America and sees scope for further consolidation in the UK.

However, Harry Coe, managing director, refused to comment on recent speculation about a possible link between Airtours and Thomson Travel. Airtours recently raised £300 million through a consolidated bond issue, £30 million more than it initially expected. Altogether it has about £500 million in cash and almost no debt on its balance sheet.

Mr Coe said that UK bookings for the summer were 5 per cent ahead of last year, which the company believes is ahead of the market, which is more or less flat. For next winter, bookings are up 20 per cent, driven by demand for holidays over the millennium. Despite higher prices, long-haul flights and holidays in the Canaries are proving particularly popular.

In Scandinavia, where the company went through a rough patch last year, bookings for next winter are 10 per cent ahead. However, Canada reported increased losses as a result of overcapacity. The company reported improved trading at its US businesses. However, total bookings for this winter are down 7 per cent from last year in North America due to cuts in capacity.

In the first quarter, ending December 31, the company made a seasonal pre-tax loss of £19.4 million (£17.3 million loss), despite a 40 per cent increase in turnover to £708 million, mainly reflecting acquisitions in Scandinavia. The increased loss was attributed to the company's expansion of its tour operating activities.

The UK companies acquired last year, Direct Holidays, Bridge Travel Group, Cresta Holidays and Panorama Holidays, all made winter losses, as expected. The existing businesses all saw improved results.

Quarterly loss for Seagram

By OUR CITY STAFF

SEAGRAM, the drinks and entertainment company, has reported a £226 million (£139.5 million) second-quarter loss after taking a \$405 million pre-tax charge on its \$10.4 billion acquisition of PolyGram, the music and film group. Revenues were \$3.3 billion, against \$3 billion a year earlier.

Before the restructuring charge, Seagram's net income from continuing operations was \$18 million, against \$58 million a year earlier, excluding a charge on wine and spirits operations in Asia.

The Universal Filmed Entertainment subsidiary, which now includes PolyGram, had losses of \$63 million, against a \$98 million profit, as its films struggled at the box office. Edgar Bronfman, Seagram president, said he was disappointed by the film group's performance, but said that it had focused on "minimising risk".

Overhaul at Scottish Eastern

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

SCOTTISH Eastern, the £800 million investment trust, has issued radical reconstruction proposals that could pave the way for a fairer treatment of shareholders in the moribund £60 billion trust sector.

After months of secret negotiations with institutional investors and private client stockbrokers, Sir John Kemp-Welch, its chairman and former head of the Stock Exchange, announced that the trust would go into voluntary liquidation, ending its 75-year history. In its demise, however, it will spawn four new investment funds.

The first of these, the Martin Currie Portfolio Investment Trust, will be a "son-of-Scottish Eastern" that will follow the same investment objectives and is designed to appeal to the army of private shareholders who own up to 40 per cent of Scottish Eastern.

Arnault makes Gucci hold special meeting

By FRASER NELSON

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, is forcing Gucci to hold a special shareholder meeting so he can put one of his colleagues on to the board of the Italian fashion house.

M. Arnault, who controls 34.4 per cent of Gucci shares, has used his recently built stake to requisition the meeting. He wants to vote Umberto Guidi, a former LVMH director, on to Gucci's supervisory board within the next six weeks, refusing to wait for Gucci's next shareholder meeting. City analysts believe that the move could sour relations

ships between LVMH and Gucci, possibly leading to a hostile takeover bid for Gucci.

Since LVMH disclosed its interest in Gucci last month, M. Arnault has emphasised his admiration for the company and for Tom Ford, its head of design. It is understood that M. Arnault wants to sell Gucci clothes through his company's DFS chain of luxury shopping malls. He could achieve this without a full takeover.

LVMH, owner of Christian Dior, is capitalised at £18.7 billion (£26.9 billion) and Gucci at \$4.08 billion (£2.51 billion).

MORE DEPARTURES THAN FREQUENT FLYERS.

EUSTON - MANCHESTER.

20 VIRGIN TRAINS DAILY EACH WAY, EVERY WEEKDAY.

HEATHROW - MANCHESTER.

12 BA FLIGHTS DAILY.

TRAVEL BY TRAIN ON A VIRGIN BUSINESS TICKET. IT'S THE MOST FREQUENT WAY TO GET FROM THE HEART OF LONDON TO THE HEART OF MANCHESTER. THAT'S NOT PIE IN THE SKY, IT'S A FACT.

For timetable and fare enquiries, call 0345 48 49 50. Virgin Business is available on selected direct Virgin trains between London Euston, the North West, North Wales, West Midlands and Scotland only. To book your Virgin Business ticket, contact a rail-appointed travel agent, your local station or call the TrainLine on 0845 222 333 allowing 2 full working days for ticket delivery. If you have a Virgin Trains business account, or would like to open one, call the TrainLine Business Booking Service on 0845 800 61 62. Virgin Trains, PO Box 713, Birmingham B5 4HH.

Trains

TEMPLES
out of its S

Barclays banks on intelligence expert

City encouraged by outsider's arrival, says Caroline Merrell

Barclays' executive team will be pleased to know that Mike O'Neill, the man charged with the task of reversing the bank's flagging fortunes, never actually killed anyone in his stint as a US marine. Instead, Mr O'Neill preferred to serve out the Vietnam war in intelligence, from the relative safety of home territory. "I joined the intelligence service to avoid conscription," he explained.

Until yesterday, the 52-year-old was all but unknown in City banking circles, despite a 25-year career in the industry. He had spent 20 years with Continental Bank before overseeing its merger in 1994 with Bank of America, which he in turn was instrumental in merging with Nationsbank — an \$80 billion deal to form BankAmerica, the largest bank in the US.

Banking analysts said yesterday that they were encouraged by Mr O'Neill's background in corporate restructuring and mergers and acquisitions. One said: "We are quite glad that they did not choose an insider, as that would mean that everything would carry on as it is."

Mr O'Neill is forecast to ring the changes at the bank, in particular dealing with the problems at Barclays Capital, the bank's investment banking subsidiary, which has admitted losing £250 million in Russia.

Robin Down, an analyst at ABN Amro, said observers were heartened by Mr O'Neill's experience on the consumer retail side of the industry. His job title at Bank of America before taking on the Barclays role was president of "principal investing and wealth management", which in UK terms means he was in charge of looking after high-net-worth retail customers.

"Clearly a lot has already been done in terms of consolidation in the UK," said Mr O'Neill, adding that all options for the future of the bank would be considered.

Worrier who does not get easily needed

Paul Drayson is a worrier — and he knows it. When he heard that Intel's Andy Grove had called his autobiography *Only the Paranoid Survive*, he says he "just had to read it".

As chairman and chief executive of PowderJect Pharmaceuticals, Dr Drayson's biggest worry is that complacency or negligence will prevent his company from establishing a new market: medical injections that avoid the pain of using a needle and syringe. He believes PowderJect has a huge opportunity. He worries to make sure the company does not blow its chances.

So far, there are few signs of it. PowderJect yesterday announced a \$100 million (£61 million) deal with Ares-Serono, the Swiss company best-known for infertility treatments. That pushed PowderJect's high-flying shares up by more than a fifth, and put a value of £120 million on the 22 per cent stake held by Dr Drayson and Elspeth, his wife and co-founder.

The company established its credentials last March when Glaxo Wellcome adopted the PowderJect technology to deliver a new generation of gene-based vaccines. Potentially, the Glaxo collaboration is worth more than \$300 million to PowderJect.

PowderJect is aiming to transform the injection of medicines. Its device is a kind of supersonic gun, that fires powdered medicines into the skin, painlessly and without the use of a needle.

Originally developed by Brian Belhouse at Oxford University, the technology promises better performance from a reduced dose, because of its ability to deliver the drug or vaccine to precisely the correct depth of skin.

Like most good inventions, it's a simple idea with obvious attractions. Best of all, PowderJect appears to have a strong patent position that shuts out copycat competitors.

Telecoms firms get ready to bid for upwardly mobile licences

Chris Ayres reports on the lead-up to a £2bn auction for new networks

Between now and April 2000, one of the largest Government auctions in history will take place, raising an estimated £2 billion for the Treasury, and potentially creating thousands of new jobs.

The auction will be for licences to operate "third generation" mobile phone networks, and will be followed by similar auctions throughout Europe, America and Asia. Ultimately, these networks will allow mobile phones to perform tasks that would have been dismissed as science fiction ten years ago. In Berlin this week, Siemens unveiled a third generation mobile phone that doubled as a videophone and Internet browser.



Starring cast: front-runners for new mobile phone licences are expected to be Vodafone, Cellnet, Orange and One2One

likely to be a media company such as Carlton Communications or Reuters, or an upstart telecoms company such as Energis. Mr Wills says: "There could, in theory, be five new entrants. What we want, though, is for the technology to be rolled out as quickly and as efficiently as possible."

These were replaced in the mid-1990s with second generation networks, based on a European-wide technological standard known as GSM (Global System for Mobile Telecommunications) which allowed customers to make better quality calls, and use basic e-mail and fax services.

At present, politicians in both the US and Europe are distancing themselves from the squabbling. As Mr Wills says: "We are currently working out the implications of all this, but it is something for the industry to sort out itself."

So far, the planned introduction of UMTS has created confusion and excitement in equal measure on world stock markets. Many analysts feel that the introduction of UMTS should be accompanied by a fundamental re-evaluation of the prospects of mobile phone companies — but they don't know where to start.

ing system, hence its deal with BT this week, while Sun Microsystems aims to produce an operating system based on its Java computer language. Meanwhile, other big US technology companies, such as 3Com and Oracle, are also sniffing around the market.

George O'Conner, an IT analyst at Granville, the broker, says: "The history of the consumer market shows that it will go one way: just look at VHS and Betamax. At present, all the noise is being made by Sun and Microsoft, not Psion."

While such uncertainty remains, deals are likely to get more frequent and more frantic. Meanwhile, confusion has also surrounded the political side of the auctioning process. In Britain, the untimely resignation of Peter Mandelson, the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and the subsequent reshuffle of the Treasury, has brought delays to the timing of the auction.

Although the Government is desperate to see Britain become the first country in the world to introduce UMTS licences — thus boosting its image as the "information centre of the world" — many industry experts question the ability of Stephen Byers, Mr Mandelson's replacement, to get to grips with the issues quickly enough. Mr Wills has faced the same scepticism. However, he claims he will not be sleeping on the job. "I have to understand this. There are 24 hours in every day, and I will use every single one of them."

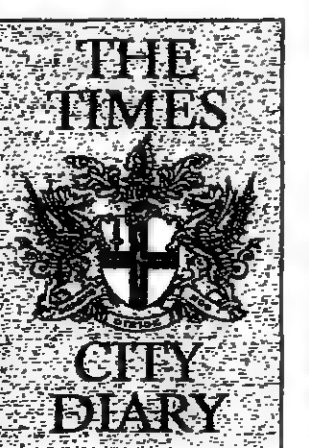
Sheepish

RAMROD the sheep enjoyed his trip up to town. You may have read in these pages how Peter Moore, the London Town Crier, was awarded the Freedom of the City and so decided to invoke the time-honoured right to herd sheep across London Bridge.



Oh nay, Moore, Ramrod and disapproving policeman

who at first refused and then only relented provided that Ramrod was kept on a lead. As you can see, they sent along a contingent to keep an eye on him. "They didn't want all the people who had previously been refused permission to get up in arms about it," someone from the charity tells me.



Wills: "efficient roll-out"

To understand UMTS, it is necessary to understand some of the technical history of Britain's mobile phone industry. When mobile phone companies began their explosive growth earlier this decade, they used poor quality first generation networks, based on analog technology.

dry, they were solemnly set in front of the judge. "On close examination, he experienced some difficulty in telling them apart," I am told. Case to the defendants, and a terribly important one in the area of intellectual property. And it is certainly the first time a High Court judge has been served Hooper's Hood.

of 1969 to 1971. It does raise one obvious question, does it not? I ask Barclays what he did in the Marines. "He was an intelligence officer," And did he serve in Vietnam? "Not exactly."

Not exactly? Visions of Charlie Sheen heading upriver into Cambodia, Colonel Kurtz and a crazed photographer. "This is the end/Beautiful friend, the end."

The truth, as my colleague sets out elsewhere, is that it was an ingenious ploy to avoid ending up as a conscript in Vietnam. Still, it makes you wonder. This man was so keen to avoid conscription he joined the Marines?

MARTIN WALLER
citydiary@the-times.co.uk

I want a custom built business portable. Not a hole in my pocket.

FREE 4.3GB HARD DRIVE UPGRADE

Work the way you want, where you want, get the award winning Gateway Solo 2500LS portable.

pentium II Built to your specifications it combines high performance with excellent value.

Get built in CD ROM and floppy drive, outstanding battery life, one of the latest Intel mobile processors and, if you order before March, a free 4.3GB hard drive upgrade. With great service too, could you drive a harder bargain? Call Gateway and have it your way.

YOUR CHOICE OF:

- 15.1" LCD TFT Colour Display
- Intel® Mobile Pentium® II Processor 400MHz
- Integrated 250k L2 Cache
- 10MB SRAM, expandable to 384MB
- 3GB 15mm Removable IDE Hard Drive
- Integrated 3.5" 1440MB Floppy Disk Drive and Integrated 8/20K CD-ROM
- High Image 128-bit 24MB VRAM
- Updatable Sound with Stereo Speakers
- 32 Call Modem/USB/Serial/Parallel
- MS Windows 95
- Gateway Connectors for Small Business
- MS Word 97, MS Publisher 98, MS Outlook 97
- Laptop Software
- Yes 2000 Hardware Compatible

£1299 (£1548.65 inc. VAT and delivery)
Business Lease £10.45 weekly

FreePhone 0800 97 3130

Have it your way DIRECT FROM Gateway

Gateway Stores: Chesham The Whirligig Centre Kingston The Servant Centre Gosport Gosport 10 Bedford Street Manchester The Trafford Centre

Sales Phone Lines Open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm. Saturday 9am-4pm

©1999 Gateway, 2000 Europe. All rights reserved. Gateway and the Gateway logo are Gateway trademarks. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of the Intel Corporation. All other brands and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. All sales subject to Gateway 2000 Europe's standard terms and conditions (available on request) and local laws. All prices and configurations are subject to change without notice or obligation. All prices are quoted in Sterling.

*All business lease figures are shown on a weekly basis, exclusive of delivery and VAT. Payments are collected quarterly by direct debit subject to terms.

051 22 44 44

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

1130	44	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1330	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1135	100	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1335	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1140	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1340	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1145	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1345	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1150	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1350	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1155	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1355	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1200	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1400	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1205	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1405	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1210	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1410	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1215	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1415	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1220	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1420	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1225	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1425	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1230	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1430	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1235	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1435	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1240	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1440	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1245	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1445	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1250	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1450	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1255	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1455	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1300	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1500	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1305	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1505	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1310	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1510	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1315	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1515	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1320	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1520	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1325	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1525	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1330	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1530	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1335	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1535	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1340	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1540	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1345	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1545	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1350	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1550	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1355	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1555	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1400	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1600	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1405	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1605	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1410	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1610	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1415	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1615	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1420	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1620	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1425	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1625	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1430	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1630	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1435	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1635	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1440	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1640	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1445	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1645	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1450	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1650	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1455	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1655	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1500	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1700	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1505	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1705	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1510	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1710	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1515	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1715	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1520	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1720	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1525	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1725	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1530	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1730	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1535	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1735	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1540	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1740	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1545	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1745	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1550	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1750	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1555	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1755	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1600	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1800	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1605	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1805	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1610	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1810	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1615	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1815	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1620	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1820	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1625	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1825	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1630	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1830	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1635	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1835	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1640	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1840	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1645	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1845	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1650	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1850	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1655	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1855	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1700	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1900	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1705	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1905	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1710	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1910	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1715	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1915	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1720	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1920	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1725	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1925	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1730	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1930	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1735	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1935	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1740	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1940	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1745	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1945	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1750	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1950	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1755	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	1955	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1800	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2000	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1805	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2005	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1810	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2010	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1815	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2015	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1820	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2020	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1825	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2025	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1830	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2030	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1835	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2035	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1840	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2040	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1845	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2045	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1850	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2050	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1855	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2055	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1900	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2100	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1905	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2105	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1910	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2110	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1915	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2115	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1920	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2120	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1925	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2125	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1930	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2130	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1935	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2135	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1940	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2140	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1945	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2145	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1950	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2150	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
1955	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2155	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
2000	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2200	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
2005	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2205	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
2010	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2210	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
2015	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2215	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
2020	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2220	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
2025	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2225	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
2030	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2230	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
2035	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2235	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
2040	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2240	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
2045	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2245	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
2050	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2250	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
2055	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2255	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
2100	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2300	Atlanta	267	+	47	10.2
2105	180	LSH	142	+	47	81	518	2305	Atlanta				

RETAILERS, FOOD			
22%	16%	14%	12%
33%	21%	18%	15%
40%	28%	25%	22%
47%	35%	32%	29%
54%	42%	39%	36%
61%	49%	46%	43%
68%	56%	53%	50%
75%	63%	60%	57%
82%	70%	67%	64%
89%	77%	74%	71%
96%	84%	81%	78%
103%	91%	88%	85%
110%	98%	95%	92%
117%	105%	102%	99%
124%	112%	109%	106%
131%	119%	116%	113%
138%	126%	123%	120%
145%	133%	130%	127%
152%	140%	137%	134%
159%	147%	144%	141%
166%	154%	151%	148%
173%	161%	158%	155%
180%	168%	165%	162%
187%	175%	172%	169%
194%	182%	179%	176%
201%	189%	186%	183%
208%	196%	193%	190%
215%	203%	200%	197%
222%	210%	207%	204%
229%	217%	214%	211%
236%	224%	221%	218%
243%	231%	228%	225%
250%	238%	235%	232%
257%	245%	242%	239%
264%	252%	249%	246%
271%	259%	256%	253%
278%	266%	263%	260%
285%	273%	270%	267%
292%	280%	277%	274%
299%	287%	284%	281%
306%	294%	291%	288%
313%	301%	298%	295%
320%	308%	305%	302%
327%	315%	312%	309%
334%	322%	319%	316%
341%	329%	326%	323%
348%	336%	333%	330%
355%	343%	340%	337%
362%	350%	347%	344%
369%	357%	354%	351%
376%	364%	361%	358%
383%	371%	368%	365%
390%	378%	375%	372%
397%	385%	382%	379%
404%	392%	389%	386%
411%	399%	396%	393%
418%	406%	403%	400%
425%	413%	410%	407%
432%	420%	417%	414%
439%	427%	424%	421%
446%	434%	431%	428%
453%	441%	438%	435%
460%	448%	445%	442%
467%	455%	452%	449%
474%	462%	459%	456%
481%	469%	466%	463%
488%	476%	473%	470%
495%	483%	480%	477%
502%	490%	487%	484%
509%	497%	494%	491%
516%	504%	501%	498%
523%	511%	508%	505%
530%	518%	515%	512%
537%	525%	522%	519%
544%	532%	529%	526%
551%	539%	536%	533%
558%	546%	543%	540%
565%	553%	550%	547%
572%	560%	557%	554%
579%	567%	564%	561%
586%	574%	571%	568%
593%	581%	578%	575%
600%	588%	585%	582%
607%	595%	592%	589%
614%	602%	599%	596%
621%	609%	606%	603%
628%	616%	613%	610%
635%	623%	620%	617%
642%	630%	627%	624%
649%	637%	634%	631%
656%	644%	641%	638%
663%	651%	648%	645%
670%	658%	655%	652%
677%	665%	662%	659%
684%	672%	669%	666%
691%	679%	676%	673%
698%	686%	683%	680%
705%	693%	690%	687%
712%	700%	697%	694%
719%	707%	704%	701%
726%	714%	711%	708%
733%	721%	718%	715%
740%	728%	725%	722%
747%	735%	732%	729%
754%	742%	739%	736%
761%	749%	746%	743%
768%	756%	753%	750%

36A	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	35A	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36B	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36A	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36C	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36B	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36D	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36C	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36E	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36D	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36F	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36E	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36G	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36F	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36H	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36G	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36I	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36H	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36J	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36I	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36K	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36J	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36L	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36K	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36M	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36L	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36N	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36M	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36O	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36N	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36P	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36O	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36Q	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36P	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36R	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36Q	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36S	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36R	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36T	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36S	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36U	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36T	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36V	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36U	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36W	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36V	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36X	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36W	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36Y	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36X	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
36Z	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	36Y	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37A	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37A	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37B	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37B	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37C	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37C	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37D	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37D	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37E	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37E	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37F	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37F	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37G	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37G	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37H	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37H	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37I	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37I	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37J	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37J	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37K	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37K	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37L	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37L	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37M	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37M	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37N	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37N	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37O	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37O	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37P	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37P	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37Q	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37Q	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37R	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37R	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37S	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37S	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37T	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37T	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37U	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37U	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37V	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37V	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37W	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37W	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37X	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37X	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37Y	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37Y	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
37Z	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	37Z	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38A	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38A	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38B	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38B	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38C	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38C	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38D	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38D	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38E	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38E	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38F	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38F	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38G	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38G	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38H	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38H	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38I	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38I	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38J	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38J	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38K	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38K	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38L	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38L	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38M	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38M	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38N	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38N	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38O	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38O	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38P	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38P	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38Q	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38Q	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38R	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38R	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38S	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38S	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38T	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38T	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38U	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38U	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38V	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38V	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38W	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38W	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38X	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38X	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38Y	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38Y	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
38Z	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	38Z	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39A	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39A	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39B	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39B	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39C	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39C	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39D	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39D	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39E	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39E	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39F	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39F	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39G	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39G	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39H	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39H	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39I	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39I	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39J	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39J	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39K	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39K	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39L	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39L	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39M	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39M	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39N	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39N	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39O	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39O	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39P	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39P	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39Q	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39Q	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39R	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39R	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39S	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39S	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39T	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39T	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39U	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39U	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39V	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39V	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39W	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39W	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39X	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39X	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39Y	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39Y	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
39Z	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	39Z	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40A	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40A	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40B	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40B	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40C	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40C	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40D	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40D	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40E	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40E	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40F	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40F	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40G	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40G	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40H	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40H	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40I	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40I	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40J	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40J	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40K	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40K	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40L	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40L	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40M	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40M	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40N	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40N	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40O	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40O	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40P	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40P	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40Q	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40Q	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40R	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40R	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40S	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40S	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40T	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40T	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40U	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40U	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40V	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40V	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40W	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40W	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40X	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40X	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40Y	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40Y	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
40Z	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	40Z	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41A	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41A	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41B	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41B	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41C	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41C	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41D	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41D	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41E	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41E	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41F	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41F	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41G	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41G	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41H	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41H	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41I	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41I	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41J	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41J	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41K	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41K	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41L	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41L	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41M	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41M	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41N	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41N	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41O	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41O	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41P	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41P	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41Q	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41Q	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41R	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41R	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41S	Adelphi	182%	3	9.0	5.8	41S	Angelo State (TX)	99%		
41T	Adelphi									

[illegible][illegible]

son to
10 jobs
ve for
ency

**Which Corporate
Bond PEP ?**

The best performer ?
The highest yielder ?
European ?
The BEST funds

For an independent guide, ring today

0800 779 013

PLUS details of our £100,000 PEP Prize Draw

[illegible]

Capita and Microsoft to train teachers

BY FRASER NELSON

CAPITA, the outsourcing and consultancy group, is to join forces with Microsoft to pitch for a slice of the £230 million of National Lottery funds available to train school teachers how to use the Internet.

Capita, which already runs a series of back-office functions for schools and colleges, is a preferred bidder after securing exclusive use of Microsoft software for its classes.

The scheme, which the Govern-

ment announced three months ago, is designed to bring teachers up to date with technology so they are better equipped to instruct pupils.

Capita is expected to claim about £35 million of the £230 pot because it already has strong links with the education sector. Rod Aldridge, chairman, said: "We already supply software to 22,000 schools and administer the pensions payroll for 156 local education authorities. We have an enormously strong relationship with the sector."

While Microsoft will supply the

software, the Universities of Nottingham and Cambridge have agreed to help to compile Capita's courses.

Although several other consortia have been cleared to bid for the contracts, Capita will be the only one to offer Microsoft programs.

The deal was announced as Capita turned in a 48 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £27 million over 1998 — after winning £270 million of new business last year alone.

It also announced a £10 million deal with Railtrack, setting up a

five-year scheme to approve contracts with firms that work on track repairs. It will design training courses, and will issue security cards, which all engineering workers must display if they want to work on the railways.

The company is now gunning for more human resource contracts such as that agreed with Westminster Council, which is using Capita to handle all its hiring and firing as well as administering payrolls and pensions. Mr Aldridge said: "The Westmin-

ster deal was the first of its kind and no one would have predicted it was coming this time last year. Where one local authority goes, others follow, so this should give us plenty of other opportunities."

Earnings per share were 9.01p (6.51p), and the total dividend rises to 2.8p (2.1p) with a final 1.9p due on April 29.

The shares were off 21p at 640p, coming off the record high hit yesterday which put a market capitalisation of £1.3 billion on the company.

Cookson to cut 700 jobs in drive for efficiency

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

COOKSON GROUP, the electronics and ceramics supplier, is cutting 700 jobs — one third in the UK — in a cost-efficiency drive.

News of the redundancies was accompanied by an upbeat assessment of current trading which sent the shares up 124p to 141p yesterday.

Cookson also assured investors it was on target to report profits of £150 million for the financial year to December 31.



Howard: £150m profits aim

This is at the top end of analysts' expectations but is still significantly below the £179 million posted for 1997.

Cookson will close 20 of its 130 plants worldwide. The 700 jobs represents 4.5 per cent of the total workforce. It is to stop making certain products and slim down managerial and administrative functions.

Last November the company warned that computer manufacturers which use its electronics equipment, and steel makers which use its heat-resistant ceramic plumbing products, were hitting hard times.

Yesterday Stephen Howard, chief executive, said that trading continued to be tough but was moderately better than

feared. Last month Morgan Crucible, which also makes ceramic products for use in blast furnaces, upset market sentiment by warning that its profits would be 15 to 20 per cent below what were then the market expectations.

Mr Howard said that the job losses and restructuring detailed yesterday would enable the company to offer cheaper products.

A thorough and broad-ranging review was undertaken for all group operations, with the aim of improving efficiency and productivity and to ensure that cost and operating structures were appropriate to meet the continuing challenges that are anticipated in 1999," he said.

The changes will cost Cookson £1.5 million this year and £28 million next year, but are expected to save £8.5 million in operating costs this year and £14.5 million a year from 2000 onwards.

The £29.5 million total will be spent mostly on redundancy payments and relocation expenses. An additional £35 million charge will come as Cookson reduces the book value of business assets associated with the restructuring.

The company is also setting aside £6 million to bolster company pension funds in the US. It said that the extra pension fund contribution was made necessary by the restructuring moves that have taken place over the last 18 months.

The net effect of all the charges will give rise to exceptional costs of £49.5 million in the 1998 results, which are due to be published at the start of March. Another £21 million exceptional charge will hit 1999 profits.

Tempos, page 30



RPS, the environmental consultancy where Alan Hearn, above, is chief executive, reported a 35 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits to £5.07 million for the year to December 31, 1998. A 2.75p final lift the total dividend to 5.5p (4.8p). RPS had £3.9 million net cash at the year end

Wallenberg accedes to the Investor throne

BY MARTIN BARROW

MARCUS WALLENBERG, nephew of the Wallenberg patriarch Peter, was yesterday named chief executive of Investor, the powerful family-controlled investment company that towers over the Scandinavian business world.

The 42-year-old succeeds Claes Dahlback, who served for 21 years as chief executive of Investor, which owns large stakes in companies accounting for 40 per cent of the Swedish stock market.

The latest Wallenberg at the helm of Investor represents the fifth generation of the family to be involved with the business. An earlier Marcus ruled the empire for three decades through to the 1970s, brooking no dissent and even engineered the ousting of his brother Jacob from the board of the family bank, Enskilda.

The new chief executive, nicknamed Husky, is reputed to be a quiet thinker. Although highly regarded within business circles, there is some doubt as to whether he can

hold Investor together in the current business climate.

Investor's holdings include a 45 per cent stake in Scania, the truck and busmaker that is being pursued by Volvo. After agreeing to sell its car business to Ford, Volvo bought a 13 per cent stake in Scania and sought merger talks, so far without success.

Investor also brokered the impending merger of Zeneca and Astra, which will form Europe's largest drugs group and merged papermaker Stora with Finland's Enso to create one of the world's largest forestry groups.

Mr Dahlback is to remain as one of Investor's two vice-chairmen, with responsibility for mergers and acquisitions.

Meanwhile, Volvo reported a 21 per cent fall in 1998 operating profits to SKr6.68 billion (£523 million). Volvo Cars, which was recently sold to Ford for £3 billion, rose 8 per cent but operating profits from the car division fell to SKr3.8 billion from SKr4.5 billion.

Hubco reports sharp drop in turnover

BY SAIED SHAH

HUBCO, the Pakistani power producer that forms part of National Power's £400 million (£245 million) investment in the country, yesterday announced a sharp drop in interim turnover and profits, and said that profits may be cut further depending on a forthcoming court decision.

Net profits fell 37.8 per cent to 3.3 billion rupees (£38.8 million) for the six months to December 31, from 5.31 billion rupees in the same period. However, the results included a large amount of revenue from the state-owned Water and Power Development Authority, which Hubco has just received and which is the subject

of a case before the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

If the case goes against Hubco, its net profit would fall by a further 50 per cent to just 1.66 billion rupees for the interim period. A court ruling last year also prevents Hubco from making dividend payments.

National Power, which has a 26 per cent stake in Hubco, has taken a £25 million charge in its interim results as a result of losses at Hubco and Kot Addu, its other power project in Pakistan.

National Power paid \$101 million for its Hubco holding, and it invested another \$291 million for a 36 per cent stake in Kot Addu.

Inn Business seeks help to fight off Enterprise

BY DOMINIC WALSH

INN BUSINESS, the tenanted pubs operator, is thought to be casting around for a possible white knight bidder to save it from the clutches of Enterprise Inns.

Enterprise admitted last month that it had made an approach. However, analysts said that there was no love lost between the two and that Inn Business would prefer to take itself private.

Alchemy Partners, which is backing the Vaux Breweries management buyout and recently took Ushers of Trowbridge private, is a possible contender. The venture capitalist is known to have a high regard for Alan Jackson, the Inn Business chairman.

Mr Jackson declined to be drawn, although he admitted that any offer from Enterprise would be "assessed against the numerous other strategic options available". He added: "We wish to pursue the strategy of an independent pub company as we believe we are doing better than anybody else."

Inn Business shares jumped 30 per cent to 60p after Enterprise's approach, although analysts believe the company is worth up to 100p a share. Yesterday it reported that pre-tax profits up 20 per cent to £7.6 million in the year to November 30, with earnings per share of 8.23p (6.76p). A final dividend of 1.85p makes 2.525p. Its assets have been revalued at 70p a share, a 49 per cent rise.

It also unveiled an acquisition of its own, having paid £12.2 million, including debt, for Trent Taverns.

Emap expands in US with £22m deal

EMAP, the publishing and media group, moved further into the US market yesterday with the \$35 million (£21.9 million) acquisition of the automotive magazines arm of General Media. The deal brings in four magazines with a combined monthly circulation of 600,000 and annual revenues of £23 million, including *Four Wheeler* and *Stock Car Racing*. They will bolt on alongside Emap's US market leadership of the four-wheel motor magazine market after its £720 million acquisition two months ago of the Petersen magazine group, whose *4-Wheel & Off-Road* is the bestseller in the sector.

Kevin Hand, Emap chief executive, said: "We indicated at the time of the Petersen acquisition that we expected it to provide a good platform for further growth, both organically and by way of acquisition." The Petersen acquisition — Emap's first move into the US market — was Mr Hand's first deal after taking over from Robin Miller as chief executive in the autumn. Emap shares, which fell to 965p after the announcement of the Petersen deal, were up 21p yesterday at £12.21, though a little shy of the recent record high of £12.91.

Britt Allcroft shares up

SHARES in Britt Allcroft, the children's media and entertainment company, rose nearly 7 per cent to 360p after it announced production plans for a full-length *Thomas the Tank Engine* feature film. The film will be a musical combining live action and model animation and will have a \$15 million budget. Entitled *Thomas and the Magic Railroad*, the film will be distributed by Destination, a Hollywood distributor, for release in the summer of 2000. The company said it did not expect to report any revenues from the project until 2001.

Brixton bond issue

BRITTON ESTATE, the property company, launched a £100 million bond issue to fund its continuing development programme. The bonds will be priced on a yield basis. The coupon and the issue price will be determined to give an effective yield to investors of 170 to 175 basis points over the 9 per cent 2008 gilt. The bonds will be repayable on December 30, 2010, and the interest on the bonds will be payable semi-annually. Brixton shares eased 1/2p to 186p, against a 12-month high of 255p.

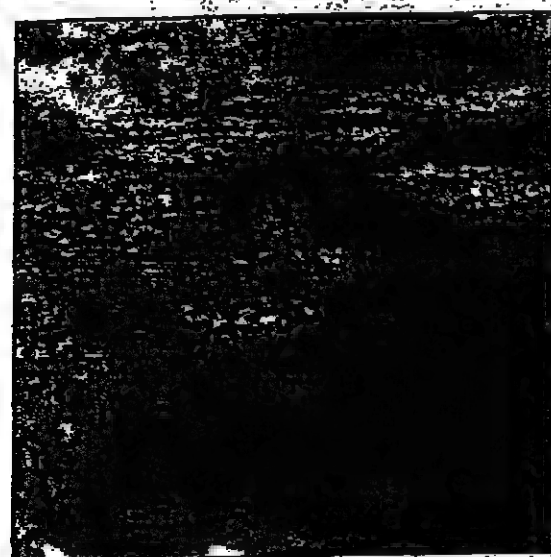
Falcon sale dropped

TANDEM GROUP has withdrawn its Falcon bicycle business from sale after failing to agree terms with potential buyers, and is abandoning plans to refocus the business on activities to horseracing. Tandem's bicycle operations at Leigh, Greater Manchester, were closed last November and transferred to the Falcon business at Brigg in north Lincolnshire to reduce costs. The company said that adverse weather conditions and a slowdown in the export market had adversely affected sales at Falcon in the second half.

Armitage profits up

ARMITAGE BROTHERS, the petcare group, reported an increase in profits of 7 per cent at the halfway stage despite a 4 per cent fall-off in sales during the period. The company blamed weak exports and poor pre-Christmas sales in the 28 weeks to December 13 for the fall in turnover to £14.5 million, but said the rise in profits to £1.15 million was a result of a concentration on better margin products. The company also gave warning of weaknesses in current consumer demand. The interim dividend rose to 3.4p, up from 3.3p for the previous year.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
FREE MONET PRINT
FOR EVERY READER



Claude Monet's Pond with Waterlilies

FREE WITH YOUR PAPER ON SUNDAY

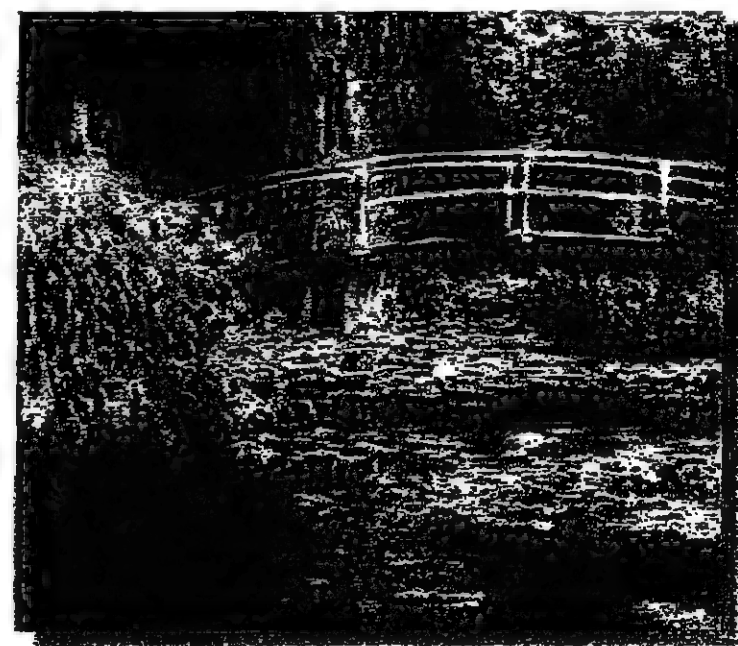
THE SUNDAY TIMES ART COLLECTION

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES FREE MONET PRINT

To celebrate the Monet exhibition at the Royal Academy, *The Times*

offers every reader a FREE Monet print, *The Bridge over the Waterlily Pond*, 1900, pictured right, worth £5.99. Simply collect four of the six tokens published this week and enclose four first-class stamps to cover postage, with the coupon below.

You can buy the other five of the set of six superb prints, all 24in x 20in and specially printed on fine art paper, for only £5.99 each or just £19.95 for the complete set, saving £10.



The Bridge over the Waterlily Pond, 1900 (24in x 20in)

Five fine art Monet prints just £5.99 each. All six for £19.95, a saving of £10

THE TIMES MONET PRINT OFFER ORDER FORM

☐ To receive your free Monet print please tick box and attach four differently numbered tokens from *The Times*, plus four first class stamps to cover postage. Post to: *The Times* Monet Offer, Saxon House, Saxon Way, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL52 6QX. Inquiries: 01242 242121 Fax: 01242 573095.

DESCRIPTION	UNFRAMED	QTY	FRAMED	QTY	TOTAL
The Grand Canal, Venice, 1908	£5.99		£39		
The Artist's Garden at Giverny, 1900	£5.99		£39		
Pond with Waterlilies, 1904	£5.99		£39		
The Houses of Parliament, Sunset, 1904	£5.99		£39		
Waterlilies with Weeping Willow, 1903	£5.99		£39		
The Bridge over the Waterlily Pond, 1900	FREE	1	£29		
Complete set of six prints (saving £10)			£19.95		
Monet in the 20th Century Exhibition catalogue			£27		
P&P per order for framed prints only			£3.95		
TOTAL					

McKishnie/In: _____ Initials: _____ Surname: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____ Day tel: _____
I, ☐ PAYMENT BY CHEQUE ☐ I enclose a cheque payable to The Times Art Collection.
I wish to pay by: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex ☐ Switch ☐ Issue No: _____
CARD NO: _____
Please charge my card the sum of £ _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____
If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by The Times, please tick ☐ TT/5

You can order this outstanding collection, including the free print, for £19.95 now (no tokens required).

Simply call the credit card orderline below, or complete the order form, left.

Inquiries: 01242 242121

FREE MONET PRINT
TOKEN 5

CREDIT CARD ORDERS 01242 700700 (24 hours)

CHANGING TIMES

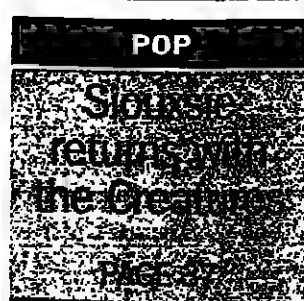
THE TIMES UNIG TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE



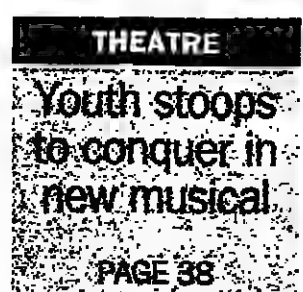

Main

LENNY KRAVITZ





THE TIMES ARTS



Call me sentimental, soft in the head or prematurely senile, but I never leave a Pimlico Opera show without a lump in the throat, an embarrassing prickling behind the eyes and a temporary feeling of goodwill towards all humanity. That is because the Pimlico productions I have seen took place in prisons. What's more, they involved prisoners — seriously bad boys, often — not just in chorus and backstage tasks, but alongside the opera pros in important speaking and singing roles.

And what's more, the lags have not been patronised or paraded like inmates of some 18th-century Bedlam. Instead, many see the shows as a genuine reprieve from whatever inner demons led them into their incarceration. Rather than being slapped down by the ritual humiliation that has been such a feature of British prisons even in recent times, they have been given back something that is perhaps even more valuable than their liberty. Their dignity.

Pimlico Opera, which specialises in refreshing the parts of society

Why did they stir salt into the porridge?

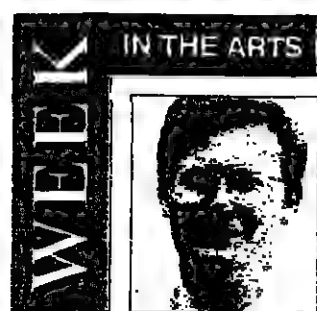
that other opera cannot reach, chooses its repertoire with wry aptness. It takes a special audacity to stage a musical about a serial killer for a cast and audience of real killers — but *Sweeney Todd* in the Scrubs was brilliant. Then came an unforgettable excursion into the gang warfare of *West Side Story* and a manically funny evocation of New York hoodlums in *Guns and Dolls*. Both of those I saw in HMP Wandsworth, a truly chilling place (the last British prison with a working gallows) miraculously if briefly made glorious by these displays of polished exuberance.

This week Pimlico staged another pertinent show. It was *The Threepenny Opera*, that witheringly misanthropic portrait of a Soho peopled by vicious villains and bent coppers, and it was staged at Downview Prison in Surrey. Downview may only be a medium-security clink, but in the early

1990s it had a dreadful reputation for drug-fuelled violence. For outsiders to have worked with the inmates on an opera in those days would have been madness.

But Colin Lambert, the present Governor, believes (as he wrote in the Pimlico programme) that "the present popular but unforgiving philosophy of rejection and condemnation must be replaced by a much more caring approach". His "voluntary anti-drugs policy" and rehabilitation programme seem to have transformed the atmosphere. And this extraordinary *Threepenny Opera* — which used many inmates serving time for drug-related offences — was a triumphant vindication of his optimism and strategy. At least, it should have been. But here the story turns sour.

Pimlico Opera may have picked up powerful allies — Sir Stephen Timmins, former Chief Inspector of Prisons, is its patron — but its liber-



RICHARD MORRISON

al ethos has also provoked surprising hostility. And on Wednesday, as I found myself at Downview in an audience of just ten people, it became clear to me that this show had been as good as sabotaged.

The ostensible cause was a prison officers' pay dispute with the Home Office. This was used as the

excuse to implement a work-to-rule that effectively scuppered the advertised evening shows and meant that rescheduled performances had to be called "rehearsals", and played to just a few outsiders.

All this was thrown at Pimlico Opera six days before opening night. The result was that it had to return thousands of pounds in ticket sales. More important still, the prisoners who had worked so hard on this show were denied the brief reward of public acclaim.

Clearly, more than a salary grievance lies behind the prison officers' action. After all, Pimlico is not publicly funded for its prison work. Its indefatigable founder and music director, Wafsi Kani, raises all the money from foundations bearing such famous philanthropic names as Getty, Hamlyn and Macintosh. So by sabotaging Pimlico's performances the guards were not hurting the Home Office. The sus-

picion must be that the underlying motive was to ruin the prisoners' big night.

If that is true, it is a surly tactic. Yes, it is wrong to get too romantic about the reformability of prisoners. Downview's inmates have done very bad things, and prison is meant to punish. But if a man emerges no better than he went in — or even more hardened — he will surely offend again.

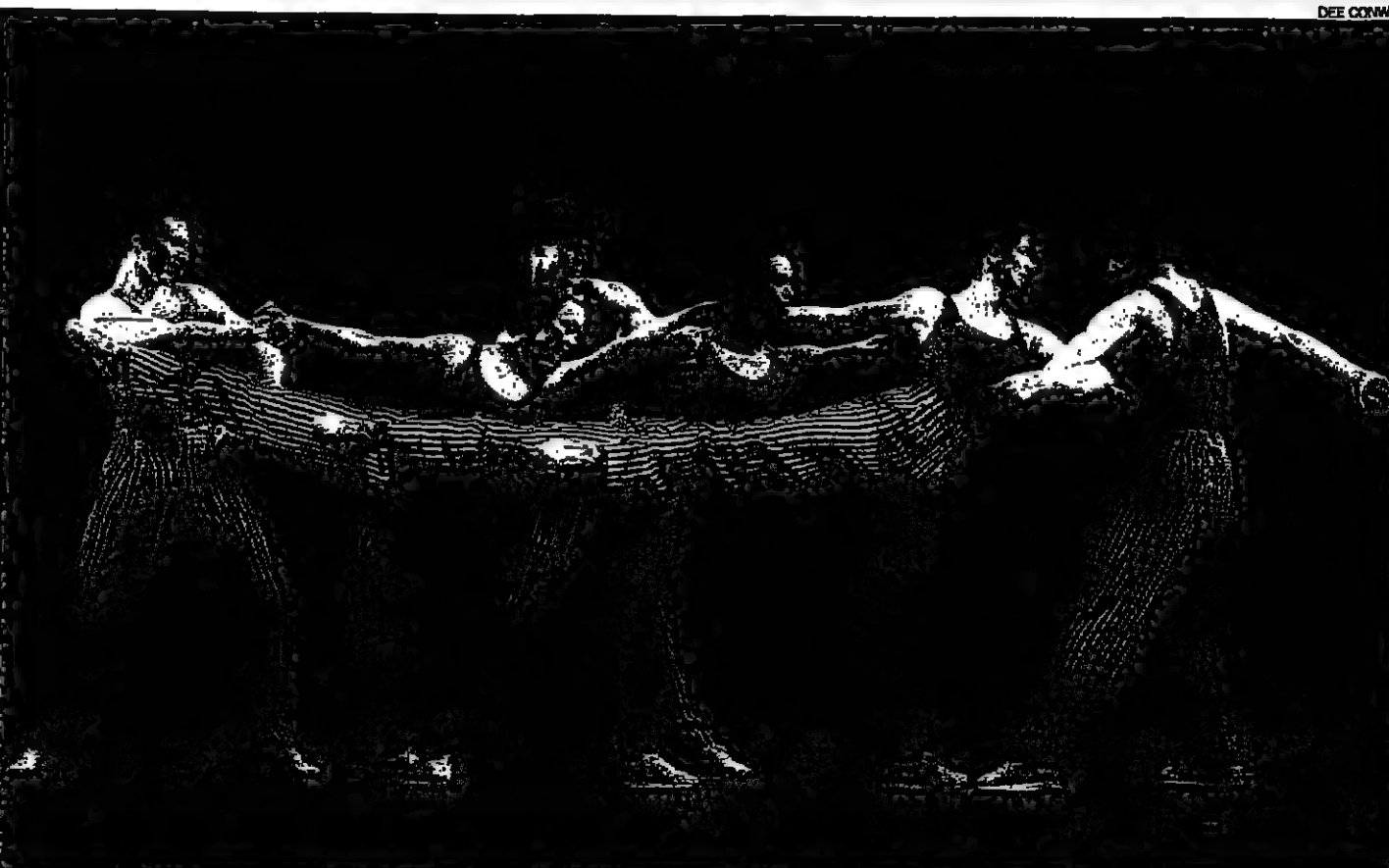
Besides Pimlico, many other dedicated professional performers and artists work in prisons. Art won't turn criminals into saints, but it can divert pent-up energies and lessening resentments into positive self-expression. Deprive prisoners of that and you might as well dig out the old signs saying "Abandon hope all ye who enter here".

At least, in time-honoured fashion, the show did go on in Downview. Without an audience the re-

verberation in the makeshift "theatre" (the prison gym) was immense, and this rendered much of Brecht's dialogue inaudible. (Some might feel this to be no great loss.)

But in Emma Jenkins's production the professional performers were compelling, especially Roger Monk as Mr Peachum and David Antrobus as Macheath. And next to these were outstanding efforts by the prison's own drama teacher, Esther Baker (Lucy), and two inmates: Trevor Toussaint, who sang *Mack the Knife* with ferocious intensity, and Ricky Fearon, playing the corrupt Chief of Police. And then there were Kurt Weill's sinister choruses, hurried out venomously by a bunch of real-life cons wielding baseball bats, saws and knives. A sight to send a frisson through braver spines than mine.

I am unqualified to judge whether Pimlico's prison excursions will aid the long-term rehabilitation of offenders. But I know that the company has achieved one small miracle at least. It has actually made opera seem useful. My goodness, that's dangerous. Lock them up!



Birmingham Royal Ballet lets rip in Twyla Tharp's modern ballet classic, *In the Upper Room*, given its company premiere on Tuesday

Go for the burn

The triple bill Birmingham Royal Ballet brings to Sadler's Wells this week reveals David Bintley's strengths as a director. Not only has he the imagination (and the choreographic talent) to resurrect one of the gems of British comic ballet, Ninette de Valois's 1940 *The Prospect Before Us*, he also has the nous to acquire one of the great modern ballets of our age. I am referring to Twyla Tharp's *In the Upper Room*, an instant classic from the moment it was unveiled by Tharp's own company in America in 1986. It entered the Birmingham repertoire on Tuesday, the star attraction of the company's London season.

BRB is the first British company to perform Tharp's exhilarating crossover ballet, and you can see why Bintley wanted it. It is a work so challenging and energising that it brings fresh life to those who perform it, and that is certainly the case with the Birmingham dancers. Although they have not quite gone the distance into the choreography's burning empowerment, they rip the stage apart most impressively.



ly. Dancers such as Grace Maduoli, David Justin and Andrew Murphy are transformed, although the entire ensemble has its heart set on making this work.

Tharp's choreography and Philip Glass's commissioned minimalist score are in total agreement, driving forward with a relentless pulse and determination. The ballet opens with two "power" women in black-and-white striped prison gear and trainers (costumes: Norma Kamali) — they are the guard dogs who watch over this ballet. Sparked into action by Jennifer Tipton's striking lighting, they shuffle and slide, readying themselves for the rollercoaster ride. Gradually other men and women (appearing as if by magic through Santo Loquasto's black velvet set) take the stage, some in trainers, others in

shocking red point shoes, looking like rebellious ballerinas (they are the bomb squad). The ferocity and glamour of their classical technique is contrasted with the casual, loose-limbed spontaneity of the trainer brigade. Body rolls share space with razor-sharp piroettes; perilous pointed arabesques cut across the jazzy fluid lines. The evolving movement comes thick and very fast, and so consumed is it by energy that sometimes all it can do is run.

Only in the finale, when the ballet reiterates itself with dizzying effect, does the entire cast of 13 come together, trainers and point shoes flying. The women look strong, the men look happy, and so do we.

My only quibble with Bintley is that placing Tharp's ballet at the end of a triple bill that starts (in delightful fashion) with *The Prospect Before Us* and continues with Bintley's own *The Protecting Veil*, a somewhat soporific and protracted work set to John Tavener's famous score, makes for a long evening.

DEBRA CRAINE

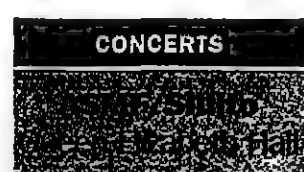
Influenza brought a change in the conductor, and a partial change of programme. But nothing could alter the aural characteristics of the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields. As soon as the 22-strong band struck up, led from the violin by Kenneth Sillito, not Iona Brown, our ears were being stroked by that silken sound, those imploring cellos, those diminuendos as sweet and delicate as a spider's web in the dew. The Academy would probably try to make Xenakis sound ravishing. Nothing so thorny was on offer, of course: this was a safe, mainstream programme of music for strings by Bartók, Shostakovich, Tippett and Britten.

Even so, did all the music need to sound quite so civilised, so caressed? This is an old Academy problem.

Mainstream delicacies

With Bartók's *Divertimento*, written in a hectic 15 days just before the outbreak of the Second World War, you missed a Hungarian snap to the folk gestures and rhythms, while the night-time shivers of the middle movement only really surfaced at the close. But there were benefits too, like the divine lilt to the snatch of polka in the finale, not to mention the gorgeous string tone.

With Shostakovich's Chamber Symphony some of the problems of expression lay in the music. This is an orchestration by Rudolf Barshal of his Eighth String Quartet of 1960, a searing piece written in three red-hot days, pointedly dedi-



cated "to the memory of the victims of fascism and war", though there are also elements of a self-portrait. Sheer weight of numbers, however, made the hurtling scherzo lose some of its menace; the waltz echoes too emerged flattened, drained of any sarcasm. The Academy seemed happiest when the music shook off its inverted commas and settled down to being plain sombre: the final diminu-

endo was beautifully and fearfully judged.

In the second half, Sillito and his team reached solid English ground. Tippett's attractive *Little Music*, written for the Jacques Orchestra in 1946, is unfairly overlooked in concerts. Its liteness, perhaps, is part of the problem.

Even after the Academy's finely balanced reading, all memories were knocked out of our heads by the cut and thrust of Britten's youthful showpieces, the *Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge*. Sarcasm may be hard for the Academy to handle, but pastiche is no problem, and they soared, strummed, plucked, and buzzed through Britten's kaleidoscope, happy as larks.

GEOFF BROWN

Nordic notes

During the past four years, those in the know have known well that, if you really want to experience the cutting edge of chamber-music activity north of the border, then the place to go is Aberdeen. A university with no official music department has succeeded, in a unique collaboration with its city council and the Scottish Arts Council, in scooping one of Europe's most sought-after young string quartets for a four-year residency.

That quartet is the Swedish ensemble Yggdrasil which, like the great Ash Tree of Nordic mythology, has sunk its roots deep into the Nordic musical bedrock while spreading its branches worldwide. Its successful residency winds down at the end of this month, and last week the leave-taking began with a formidable programme of Shostakovich, Carlstad and Beethoven.

At the moment the ensemble is recording Shostakovich's complete quartets, and the performance of the Ninth in Aberdeen epitomised the searching intensity and commitment of its approach to this composer. The string quartets of the group's compatriot Jan Carlstedt are little known in Britain, but Aberdeen has been discovering them, and this concert presented the world premiere of his Sixth.

Carlstedt is, if you like, Shostakovich without the jokes. This five-movement, arch-form work develops its material with a thoroughness and thoughtfulness which is almost palpable. But from this very rigour bursts a raw, earthy passion. The second movement contracts the sturdy motifs of the first into taut rhythms, and lashes them



with high, angry trills and thudding pizzicato. The lyrical slow movement maintains intensity through textural tension and a gradually destabilising metre which, in turn, is metamorphosed into dance before a final elegiac epilogue.

It said much for Carlstedt's quartet that it stood its ground in the challenging company of both the Shostakovich and of a fast and furious performance of Beethoven's *Grosse Fuge*. Yggdrasil, it seems, has shaken the granite city to its foundations, and new growth is already sprouting from the seeds of the great Ash Tree.

HILARY FINCH

FLY AWAY

THE NEW SINGLE OUT 8 FEBRUARY

as featured in the Peugeot 206 TV AD
Taken from the album "5"

KATE WINSLET SAID TAGHMAOUI

HIDEOUS KINKY

As Good as a Holiday
A Small Marvel
Colourful and Evocative
Terrific

NOW SHOWING AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

"ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT!"

SHOULD BE SEEN BY ANYONE WHO WANTS TO UNDERSTAND THE OPPOSITE SEX

MARK LITTLE DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN

BY ROB BECKER

THE HILARIOUS TRUTH ABOUT MEN, WOMEN AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS.

NOW PREVIEWING • PRESS NIGHT 17 FEB • APOLLO THEATRE • 0171 494 5509 • SHARPSBURY AVE LONDON W1

SPECIAL VALENTINE'S PERFORMANCES Sunday 14 February at 4.00pm & 7.00pm

POP INTERVIEW

Freddie Meyer, who he?

ARTS

POP GIG

Gay Dad, sad future

Freddie and his schemer

How does a complete unknown plug his debut single? By hijacking a saint and making a TV commercial, that's how

You're lying in bed, a bit fluey. You're stuck in the ad break between Trisha ("You're too fat to wear that") and Richard and Judy ("More news on that ghost on the A13") when this extraordinary commercial appears. It's Freddie Meyer, singing his brand new Valentine's Day single, *Do You Love Me?* It's a slick, catchy slice of Michael Bolton stuff. The ad, however, was obviously shot on a budget of 49p. We briefly see him onstage, in what appears to be 1987, before a barrage of cheaply animated hearts obscures him. *Do You Love Me?*, the voiceover intones, is available by ringing a special Freddie hotline. Or from Debenhams.

Three shots of Day Nurse and half a bottle of Buttercup Cough Syrup to the good, you are confused. Who the hell is Freddie Meyer? And you'd be right to wonder — after an hour and a half looking for him on the Internet, I can conclude that Meyer is the least famous person in the English-speaking world.

So how can this completely unknown man launch an utterly unprecedented advertising campaign for his debut single? Is he a lottery winner, blowing his wedge to impress *The Guys Back At The Pub*? Freddie Meyer sits at a table in Leith's. He is all ponytail, leather waistcoat and bad trousers. Orig-



CAITLIN MORAN

nally from Ohio, he saw the Motortown Revue at the age of 12, and "it blew my mind." He got a band together, and by 1966 had a residency in St Tropez. He hung with Charles Aznavour and Brigitte Bardot, and never got around to going home. He now makes his money writing songs for French films, and playing gigs at Euro Disney.

"I noticed when I played my own stuff, the crowds went wild," he says in a careful, Midwestern drawl. "Danish, French, Belgian — people of all ages, even little kids, loved it." He gives a sleepy smile.

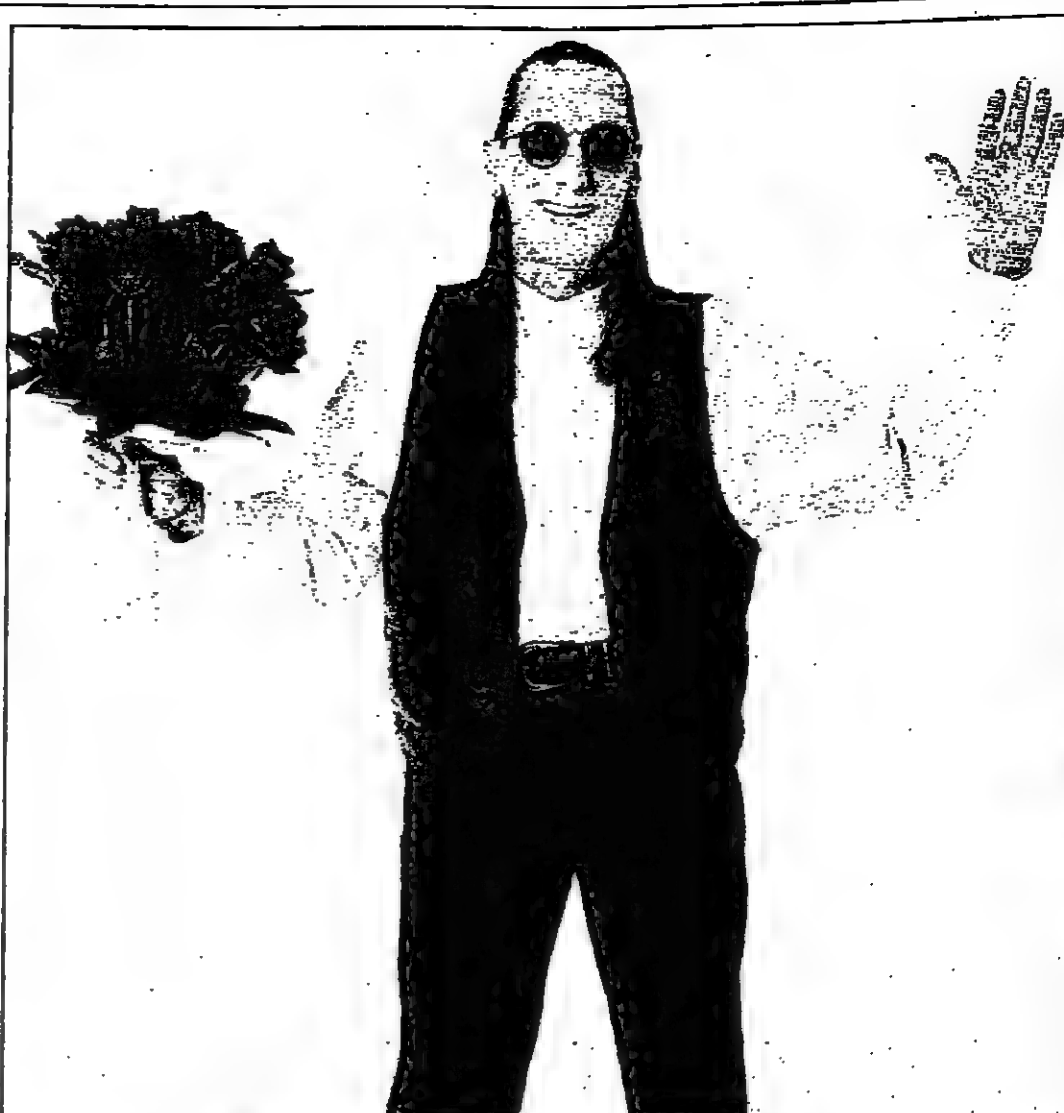
One gets the impression Freddie would have been quite happy with Euro Disney and his French film cheques; but rock'n'roll is a 50-50 split between dreamers and schemers, and Freddie's manager, Paul Bloomberg, is the latter. No one has ever looked more like a manag-

er than Paul, with his jewellery, his blue suit, his Danny DeVito-as-hustler shock. The impression is of Del Boy pushing an amiable, superannuated MOR Rodney.

"I thought it was crazy that Freddie had all these very classy songs, but no one knew who he was," he declares, leaning across the table. "All they want is four sperm with a guitar. We knew we'd have to find another way to get Freddie's music across to the people." So Freddie, Bloomberg and another friend called Steven pooled their money into a Get Freddie Famous fund, and started making plans.

"I thought, Freddie is a very romantic guy, and there is no more romantic day than Valentine's Day," Bloomberg stretches expansively in his chair. "So hook him into that, and February 14 becomes Freddie Day." Entrusted with turning Valentine's Day into Freddie Day was Ross Capon at the advertising agency CKBT, which handles Johnson & Johnson, Daewoo and Ritz. Capon has the weary erudition of a man who's seen it all.

"I thought they should market themselves like anything else," he says. "We got a good deal on TV advertising space and the rest went from there, really." The response had been fantastic," Bloomberg says. "We've had Freddie on Capital Gold, Melody, Heart FM and



There's no one romanticker than Freddie Meyer, even if he did meet his Waterloo at Waterloo, Geddit?

LBC. It's growing day by day."

"And at the end of the interview, I always say 'Do you love me?'" Freddie chuckles. "It gets them, every time."

Alas, the planned grand finale of Freddie Day has come a cropper. Waterloo station was to witness a Freddie Explosion, with half-naked Chippendale types handing out

roses and CDs, Freddie being mobbed by "fans" as he alighted from Eurostar, and a 9ft long airship with Freddie's name looking down on it all. Tragically, Railtrack nixed the whole plan. "Something to do with planning, Waterloo's been our Waterloo," Capon sighs.

The astonishing thing about this admirable, ramshackle campaign,

however, is that if it works, the music industry will be turned on its head. Freddie Meyer will have executed an act of brilliant subversion.

In the meantime, Freddie's leaning eagerly across the table. "One last thing," he says. "Do you love me?"

Freddie Meyer plays the Roadhouse, Covent Garden, on Monday

Cooking with gas

NED ROTHENBERG

Sync

(Intuition INT 3249-2)

LEADER Ned Rothenberg compares his new band, Sync, to "a trio of chefs, experienced in varying degrees in the different musical cuisines of the world", and sees his own role as imagining the final meal. To this end, his compositions set his own clarinet, alto or shakuhachi (bamboo flute) against a beguiling variety of sounds: the tabla, dumbek and assorted percussion of Samir Chatterjee, and the acoustic guitars of Jerome Harris.

Some pieces are relatively straightforward jazz-based jams, others are freer in approach, abandoning regular rhythm altogether in favour of textural adventurousness. The result is a highly enjoyable

NEW JAZZ ALBUMS

ble vindication of Rothenberg's overall aim: to achieve "variety, but not at the expense of focus".

MISHA ALPERIN

with JOHN SURMAN

First Impression

ECM 1664 557 650-2

LIKE many contemporary ECM products, *First Impression* is deeply contemplative. Impeccably performed and flawlessly recorded, pianist Misha Alperin is steeped in the folk tradition, but adept at transforming its melodies, via a sensibility informed by both jazz and classical music, into deeply affecting, highly individual compositions in which an almost crepuscular lyricism alternates with a lilting romanticism. The CD sleeve — all glacial blue and midnight black — perfectly represents the music within.

CHRIS PARKER

This is, that was, Gay Dad



Style over content: arrogance may be a prerequisite for the sort of band Gay Dad aspire to be, but it only works when it is backed up by great music

So, could the mega-hyped band show that there was more to them live than good haircuts and a great name? No, says Stephen Dalton

In recent weeks, Gay Dad have been virtually inescapable. The London-based band have enjoyed both saturation media coverage and a Top Ten hit with their infectious debut single, *To Earth With Love*. This situation arose partly because January and February are traditionally quiet months in the music industry calendar, but also because of a six-figure marketing campaign that plastered the band's striking logo on every available space throughout the capital. Taking into account that the band's frontman, Cliff Jones, is a former rock journalist with an arch and eminently quotable interview style, this financial gamble begins to smell like old-fashioned hype.

Thus the acid test for Gay Dad has been their current national tour, their first since becoming chart stars. Cut adrift from the currents of metropolitan taste, the band still managed to pack out the compact Fleece And Firkin in Bristol with expectant pop fans on Tuesday night. But many of these floating voters left unimpressed by the latest fad to be imposed on them by an evitable London media.

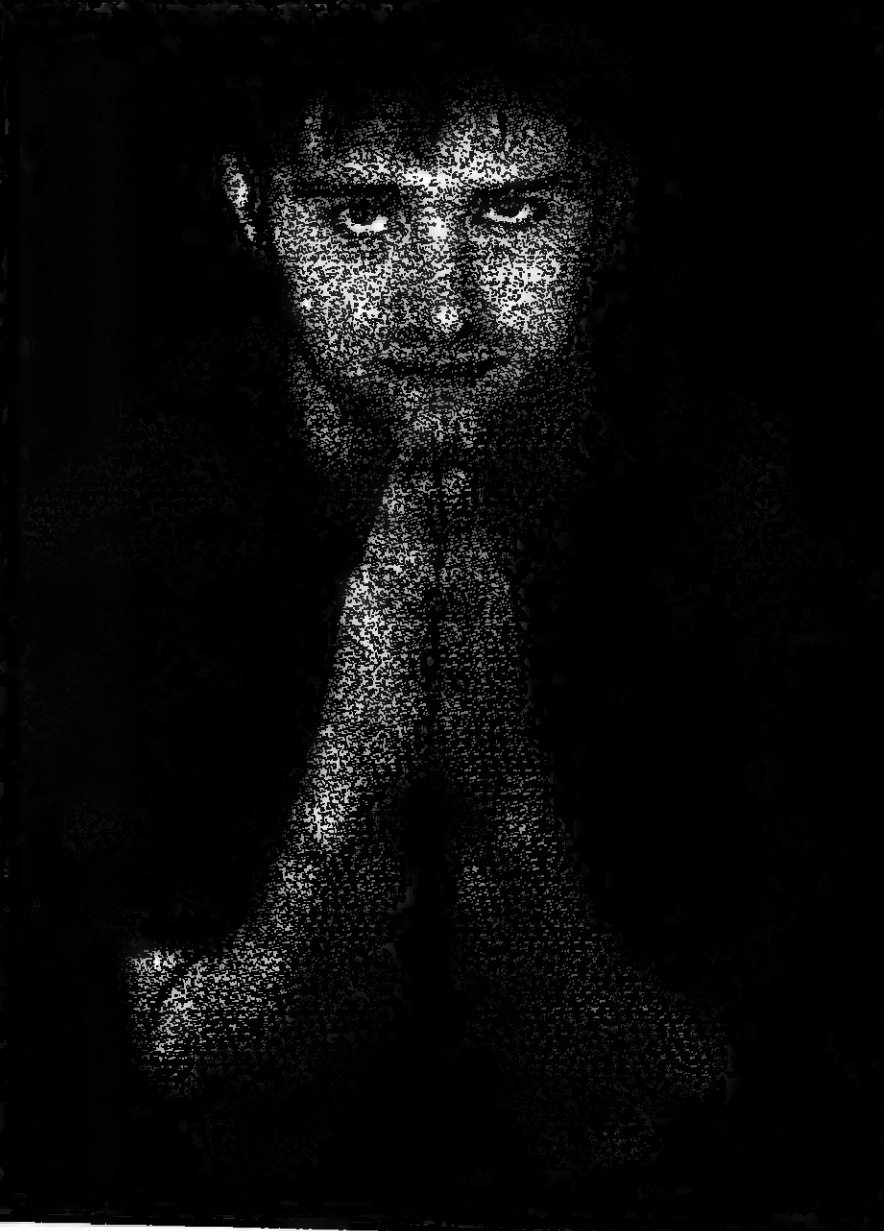
With his streaked blond locks and haughty swagger, Jones certainly looks like a classic rock frontman, a cross between Nirvana's Kurt Cobain and Sling in his Police heyday. Alas, Jones possesses neither the former's riveting passion nor the latter's pop sensibility. Also, the singer made few friends by demanding that the audience applaud at the end of the first number, a pedestrian hybrid of mild psychedelia and knowing glam rock pastiche. Arrogance

may be a prerequisite for the sort of band Gay Dad aspire to be, but it only works when it is backed up by great music.

In fairness, Jones eventually proved to be an averagely accomplished guitarist and moderately capable songwriter. At least one of his more upbeat tunes possessed an elegant, Beatish melody while a couple of freewheeling ballads showed the potential to become the sort of airbrushed epics that Bryan Adams or Jon Bon Jovi might attempt. But *To Earth With Love* lacked the spark of its recorded version, while similarly flat compositions such as *Oh Jim* and *Black Ghost* were merely graceless and faceless. For a band who have apparently been in gestation for at least five years, this paucity of memorable melodies does not bode well at all. What on earth were they doing all that time? Not writing songs, it seems.

Although reportedly conceived as some sort of grandiose conceptual art project, Gay Dad played a remarkably straight rock show in Bristol. On this evidence, they are neither intriguingly avant-garde enough to woo a cult following, nor arrestingly commercial enough to warrant mainstream attention. They have filched a parade of muddy, well-thumbed ideas from rock history, but mere cleverness is no substitute for the simple thrill of great pop. They will need far more charisma, originality and heart-stopping tunes if they hope to extend their 15 minutes of artificially inflated fame into a serious career. Premature adulation will do them few favours in the long run.

THIS WEEK: BLUR'S NEW SINGLE. THE VERDICT.



HMV recommends roots

VHMA - VARTINA
Renowned for their stirring four-part female vocals, Vartina meld traditional Finnish folk with an exhilaratingly infectious modern edge.

BILL LASHWELL & SACRED SYSTEM
A galvanising, hypnotic soundscapes, fusing Sufi, Indian, African and Arabic textures with ambient electronics and drum 'n' bass.

CLOSE TO THE FLOOR
ASHLEY MACISAAC
The stunning 1992 debut recording from 'the Jimi Hendrix of Celtic fiddling'. "The most talented fiddler I have ever seen. Absolutely amazing." *Billboard*

FINE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH
ASHLEY MACISAAC
Another foot-stomping album displaying the raw power and vibrant beauty of traditional fiddling, spiced with contemporary dance rhythms.

SUAS EI
MARY JANE LAMOND
Lamond's angelic vocals inspire Celtic enchantment through her own emotionally powerful, yet decidedly modern musical style.

All titles are £12.99 and include a FREE sampler from the newly launched Widow label* over 100 stores nationwide or order by phone now on 0990 33 45 78
*Subject to availability of selected items only

www.hmv.co.uk topdogmusic

listen in rapture

Blonde - atomic/atomix: the very best of

With Blonde flying high the moment, this 'Atomic' single is a must-have for all fans of the band. The single is a tribute to the band's early work, and is a must-have for all fans of the band. The single is a tribute to the band's early work, and is a must-have for all fans of the band.

MEGASTORES

POP ALBUMS

Veterans return

Decline of the Siouxsie nation

THE CREATURES

Anima Animus

IT IS too soon for a Siouxsie and the Banshees revival, but in the meantime Siouxsie and drummer Budgie return to the fray with *Anima Animus*, their third album in the guise of the Creatures. As pop's most celebrated Darby and Joan act, they know each other's game inside out, and the marriage between her icy yodel and his marauding, tom-tom-tom-tom is carried out with consummate poise.

But it is a curiously uninvolved collection, despite some intriguing rhythmic variations on *Disconnected* and the outlandish dark lyrics of *Exterminating Angel*: "Ripping through your menstrual stream/Rising up taste of rusty can/And jagged-glass feeling again". And on the P.J. Harvey-ish *Prettiest Thing* and the Portishead-influenced *Don't Go To Sleep Without Me*, there are clear signs that these once proud innovators are now playing catch-up with current developments.

BLONDIE

No Exit

(Beyond/RCA 74321648732)

[£14.49]

COMPARED with the reunions of bands such as the Velvet Underground and the Sex Pistols, the Blondie comeback was not so surprising. But to find them at No 1 this week with *Maria*, a gem of a single and their first new hit since they disbanded in 1982, is certainly cause for wonderment. The explanation lies partly in the fact that, unlike those other

NEW POP ALBUMS

groups, Blondie have done the necessary groundwork, touring at grass roots level as well as writing and recording new material, rather than relying on media hype and a classic back catalogue.

Blondie's music occupies a point on the stylistic compass somewhere between frivolous, street-smart pop and "quality" rock, and the tension between the two is evident throughout this album. *Screaming Skin*, with its fidgety ska beat, *Boom Boom in the Zoom Zoom Room* featuring Debbie Harry in pseudo-scat singing mode and the title track, with its cheeky quotes from Bach's *Tocata and Fugue*, are all songs which, although carefully crafted, refuse to take themselves too seriously.

Another disorientating feature is the constant changing of stylistic hats: the Spectatorish girl group sound of *Out in the Streets*, a faux-country waltz time signature for *The Dream's Lost on Me*, a brisk reggae pulse for *Divine*. That they can make such a disparate bunch of arrangements all sound like bona fide Blondie songs is a mark of the band's continuing greatness, and if it does not quite hang together as an album, *No Exit* will doubtless function as a rich source of future hit singles.

gles. It certainly provides a firm artistic rationale for the group's return to active duty.

JOHN MELLENCAMP

John Mellencamp

(Columbia 491652 £14.49)

"I'M NOT the young kid I used to be," John Mellencamp sings on *I'm Not Running Any more*. Well, he can join the club and, while he's at it, reflect on the fact that in rock'n'roll, as in life, once you reach a certain stage it can often be too late to rectify past mistakes.

In Mellencamp's case, the failure to tour here over the years means that another fine album by the fading American superstar is destined to be passed over by the British record-buying public. This is a shame. For, as well as dautfully shoe-horning a few modern

dance music effects into the mix of *Break Me Off Some* and spicing up the Stax-like *Summer of Love* with a sitar part where you would expect the horn solo to be, Mellencamp continues to play to his considerable strengths, conjuring up another raft of well-observed rural-rock narratives spiced with a twist of violin.

The homespun philosophies come thick and fast — "What you believe about yourself/I'll all come true" — along with a pessimistic State of the Union address called *Eden is Burning* which catches up on the story of Jack and Diane, the couple from Mellencamp's 1982 hit of the same name. "Nothing's forever, I guess it's true," he sings, the genuine and rueful voice of experience.

BOOM BOOM

SATELLITES

Out Loud

(R&S RS 99149 £14.99)

THEY have been called the Japanese Chemical Brothers and their heavy techno approach is frequently compared to that of the Prodigy, but that is only part of the story. For whereas the galvanising rhythm tracks of those acts are all sampled and machine-generated, the duo from Tokyo make liberal use of guitars and drums as well as technology, an arrangement more in line with the working practices of the Propellerheads than of the other British big beat acts.

When they lock on to a John Bonham-meets-Massive Attack groove during *Missing Note*, it sounds like a surprisingly nimble Godzilla on the move. Throw in industrial, funk and jazz influences, such as the Miles Davis-style trumpet and flute flourishes in *Better the Jam No 3*, and the result is dancefloor dynamite.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Dressed for a lack of success: Siouxsie Sioux and Budgie follow trends, rather than initiate them, on *Anima Animus*

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- | | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 (1) | You've Come a Long Way, Baby | Fatboy Slim (Sire) |
| 2 (3) | Talk on Corners | Corn (Atlantic) |
| 3 (2) | I've Been Expecting You | Robbie Williams (Chrysalis) |
| 4 (4) | Step One | Steps (Jive) |
| 5 (10) | The Miscommunication of | Lauryn Hill (Columbia) |
| 6 (5) | Forgiveness, not Forgetfulness | Corn (Atlantic) |
| 7 (6) | Ladies & Gentlemen - the Best of | George Michael (Epic) |
| 8 (7) | Where We Belong | Boyzone (Polydor) |
| 9 (21) | Ray of Light | Madonna (Maverick) |
| 10 (9) | Big White Light | Will Smith (Columbia) |

COPYRIGHT CIN

● Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

Faith — the music

Christian rock band dc Talk are showing the Devil who has the best tunes, says Lisa Verrico



"If someone connects with us, shares our faith, so be it," says dc Talk. "If they don't, it's OK. We're not here to preach"

Not since the Beatles and the Stones rubbed shoulders with the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi have religion and rock'n'roll been better friends. Madonna no longer criticises Catholicism, she sings in Sanskrit and practises yoga. At a recent awards ceremony, Buddhist Beastie Boy Adam Yauch — whose band has turned Tibetan monks into pop's hippest cause — made a plea to Muslims. Meanwhile,

Wu-Tang Clan leader RZA, bad boy rapper Mark Morrison and former House Of Pain frontman Everlast all claim to have converted to Islam. Even Courtney Love has taken to dangling Tibetan mala beads from her microphone.

While pop's current flirtation with Eastern religion may be purely a fashion fad, a decade of steadily building sales of faith-based music is proof that the pulpit's interest has a longer shelf-life. Moreover, in mainstream America — and more recently Britain — Christian rock has been making a comeback. In America, the likes of Australian act Newsboys, Audio Adrenaline and the multi-platinum Jars of Clay frequently fill arena-sized venues. Britain's Delirious sold out Wembley Stadium, despite receiving next to no mainstream media coverage.

To date, though, the scene's biggest success story is Nashville-based band dc Talk. Since forming exactly a decade ago, the trio have recorded one gold and two platinum-selling albums, each of which won a Grammy award. Their latest album, *Supernatural*, is set to do even better. It peaked at No 4 in the *Billboard* chart, is poised to surpass the 1.5 million sales of its predecessor, 1995's *Jesus Freak*, and is all but guaranteed to add to the band's haul of Grammys.

However, on a two-day trip to London prior to the album's release in this country, band members Kevin Max and Toby McKeehan do not seem over-pleased by the prospect.

"Of course, it's nice to be recognised," says McKeehan. "It would be an honour to win another Grammy. We're just a little disappointed with the nomination."

McKeehan's disappointment stems from the category in which *Supernatural* is to be judged. Thanks to the trio's devout Christian beliefs the awards panel has labelled the album "gospel pop". That dc Talk had hoped to break into the mainstream rock/pop category for the first time says much about the state of contemporary Christian music.

"To us, gospel means church music," says McKeehan. "Our aim has always been to appeal to as many music fans as possible, whether they are Christian, Buddhist or non-believers." Fresh from an extensive, arena-sized American tour (one gig in Detroit attracted an audience of 15,000), dc Talk are well on the way to achieving that goal. "We've certainly broken down a lot of barriers," says Max. "At home, we're seen as a rock band which just happens to have Christian beliefs."

dc Talk's crossover appeal undoubtedly owes much to the appearance of its members. As soon as our interview is over, Max and McKeehan hit Harvey Nichols on a shopping spree. Then they're off to a smart Soho restaurant, where they will be seen drinking absinthe until the early hours.

"Did you expect us to be dressed in dodgy jeans and handing out leaflets?" asks Max. "That isn't our style. Our lyrics express a faith which is a very big part of our lives. If someone connects with that, if they share that faith, so be it. If they don't, it's OK. We're not here to preach."

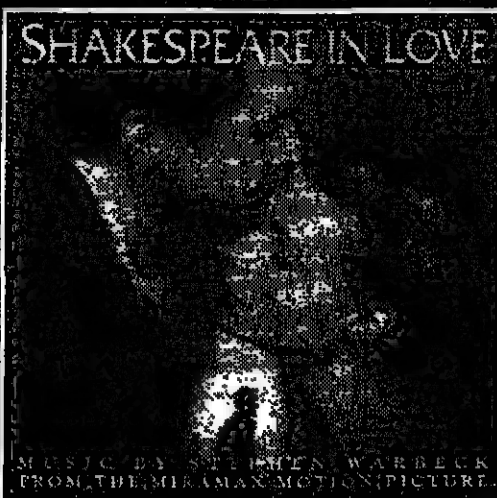
Instead, they are here to play good music. Awarded four out of a possible five stars by Q magazine, *Supernatural* is a consistent rock album which mixes harmonic vocals with 1960s-sounding melodic pop and British indie influences such as early Radiohead.

"We grew up on the pop charts and our parents' Beatles albums," says McKeehan. "My influence was the Police. Kevin's was Queen. There's no reason why spiritual music shouldn't sound good."

● *Supernatural* is released by Virgin on Feb 22. The single *My Friend (So Long)* is out now

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK



The perfect gift for your love this Valentines Day.

Compact Disc available from

MEGASTORES

Sony Classical
10 Great Marlborough St, London, W1V 2LP
www.sonyclassical.com

ACADEMY AWARD

NOMINATIONS FOR

BEST ACTRESS

EMILY WATSON

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

RACHEL GRIFFITHS

"OUTSTANDING"



TWO SISTERS. TWO LIVES. ONE LOVE...

HILARY and JACKIE
A TRUE STORY

Now Showing In The West End And February 12 Nationwide

LISTINGS

Leicester gets the laughs

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

REINHOLD: Mark Elder returns to conduct Nikolaus Lehnardt's new production of Wagner's powerful allegory on the struggle between good and evil. *Don Quixote* (1171-555 5000). Opens tomorrow, 4pm.

TOAST: Debut play by Richard Bean, set in a hall where a group of people are waiting for a new arrival. Richard Wilson directs. *Amateurs* (0171-555 5000). Opens tomorrow, 7pm.

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT: Monica Huggett takes on the double role of soloist and conductor with the period band in an evening of French Baroque music offering works by Lully, Charpentier and Rameau. *Queen Elizabeth Hall* (0171-590 4242). Tomorrow, 7.45pm.

HOWE THE ROCKIE: Mark Oliver's nightmare account of Dudd's woman underworld music. Mike Bradwell directs. *Asian Arts Centre* (0171-590 4242). Tomorrow, 7.45pm.

ELSEWHERE

CARDIFF: The celebrated Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andnes joins the BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mark Wigglesworth in Beethoven's Emperor Concerto framed by Messiaen and Shostakovich. *St David's Hall* (01222 878444). Tonight, 7.30pm.

LEICESTER: Launch of ten days of re-broadcast comedy as the Leicester Comedy Festival gets its doors to a



Leonard Slatkin conducts Czech music in Oxford

plethora of humorous acts. Films, theatre and stand-up shows feature in an action-packed programme which offers a vast line-up of contemporary comedy. *Leicester Comedy Festival* (01533 444444). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
House full, returns only in some seats available. Seats at all prices

- **BAREFACED CHIC:** Fascinating Asia play here for a month before setting off on their latest national tour. The latest *Charles Pinner* directs. *Royal, Haymarket* (0171-555 5000).
- **THE FOREST:** Alan Ayckbourn's satirical comedy, with Michael Feast's impoverished actor trying to impress his rich aunt. *Frances de la Tour* directs. *Lyttelton* (0171-432 3000).
- **AND THE BROTHER TOO:** Eamon Morrissey returns to the theatre with his new play, *Ver* and the circus. *Lyttelton* (0171-432 3000).
- **SARA:** Patrick Markey's treatment of Chekhov's novel, focusing on the character of the hero's young wife. *Brinsford* (0171-432 3000).
- **COPENHAGEN:** Hesseberg mysteriously calls on Nils Bohr in a witty, satirical play. *Brinsford* (0171-432 3000).
- **THE RIT:** Co-production with Newbridge Theatre of Cornwall, presenting Nick Davis's new play, set at the turn of the century where the army is brought in to quell the unruly workers. *Lyttelton* (0171-432 3000).
- **OKLAHOMA!** National Theatre's production of the musical, with the RSC transfer from Stratford. *Lyttelton* (0171-432 3000).
- **RICHARD III:** Robert Lindsay puts on the RSC transfer from Stratford. *Savoy* (0171-838 8888).
- **FOURPLAY:** Post-modern bedroom farce by Spanish dramatist Juan Mayorga. *Lyttelton* (0171-432 3000).
- **CERTAIN YOUNG MEN:** Peter Gill directs. *Lyttelton* (0171-432 3000).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

- LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL:** (PG). Roberto Benigni's romantic comedy from Italy. A hilarious comedy about a man who is sent to a concentration camp. *Lyttelton* (0171-432 3000).
- YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS:** (18). Neil LaBute's witty, satirical comedy about a man who is sent to a concentration camp. *Lyttelton* (0171-432 3000).
- THE RIT:** (PG). A comedy about a man who is sent to a concentration camp. *Lyttelton* (0171-432 3000).
- THE FOREST:** (PG). A comedy about a man who is sent to a concentration camp. *Lyttelton* (0171-432 3000).
- THE RIT:** (PG). A comedy about a man who is sent to a concentration camp. *Lyttelton* (0171-432 3000).
- THE FOREST:** (PG). A comedy about a man who is sent to a concentration camp. *Lyttelton* (0171-432 3000).
- THE RIT:** (PG). A comedy about a man who is sent to a concentration camp. *Lyttelton* (0171-432 3000).
- THE FOREST:** (PG). A comedy about a man who is sent to a concentration camp. *Lyttelton* (0171-432 3000).
- THE RIT:** (PG). A comedy about a man who is sent to a concentration camp. *Lyttelton* (0171-432 3000).
- THE FOREST:** (PG). A comedy about a man who is sent to a concentration camp. *Lyttelton* (0171-432 3000).

ARTS

Auntie's rules of war

When Orson Welles presented H.G. Wells's *War of the Worlds* on radio, he famously sent crowds out in panic on to the American streets, thinking the Martians had really invaded. If the medium was as potent as that in the 1930s, couldn't it have been used to greater moral and political purpose by the BBC when Hitler's persecution of the Jews was becoming ever more obvious and violent?

That is the question at the core of Stephen Poliakoff's *Talk of the City* and, despite several weak spots in its fabric, the result is a play which nicely illustrates that fine dramatist's knack for finding an unusual topic and fascinating you with it. From the start it is clear that the institution Reith built will not easily be put to even mildly radical uses. It is 15 years old, and already excludes ersatz venerability. The sound of kissing on air is forbidden, smoking in the building a sacking offence. The announcers are required to sound uninvolved in a polite, staccato sort of way, since the listeners need to be reassured that the news is as remote from their

David Westhead (Robbie) and Angus Wright (Clive) in Stephen Poliakoff's timely RSC play, *Talk of the City*

THEATRE

Talk of the City

Young Vic

lives as, let's say, that faraway country Czechoslovakia is from their living rooms. Television permits greater freedom — but who cares? The irony is that so few people watch the strange new medium that, unlike the wireless, it is "free from prying eyes".

Poliakoff, who also directs, has a terrific time evoking the youth of an Auntie who was never young, and, in particular, recreating the sort of variety show that then might have been permissible: songs, invective, dance, jokes, affable chatter with celebrities and, weirdly flung in, bits of detective thriller. Indeed, it is the host of one of these rambling programmes who gives him his plot. David Westhead's smiling, saloon-bar Robbie is gradually drawn into the force-field of Angus Wright's splendidly disdantful, incisive Clive, and persuaded to use his growing celebrity to expose the anti-Semitic atrocities unrolling in Germany.

That bureaucracy, political caution, fear of giving offence, commercial pressures and what used to be called "repressive tolerance" combine to make this endeavour difficult is the least of the play's surprises. The true oddity is that, within the tyrannical BBC that Poliakoff postulates, Robbie succeeds in exploiting the possibilities of live performance as long and mischievously as he does. Moreover, isn't the appearance of a German-Jewish lover an implausibly convenient way of converting him to political activism? And would the kind of protest he and Clive have in mind really have changed much in an era when, as Poliakoff also shows, insularity and appeasement rule?

But even those characters are more rewarding than others — Kelly Hunter seems especially short-changed as a young woman working for that remarkable period enterprise, Mass Observation — Poliakoff's RSC cast transfers well from Stratford's Swan. And if the play has its inconsistencies and untidiness, it remains engrossing, stimulating and, I'd suggest, timely. Television has brought the BBC still greater power. Does it use that power wisely, responsibly, constructively and well in the late 1990s?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

This joyous production of a new musical based on Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer* shows the National Youth Music Theatre once again threatening to beat the professionals at their own game. For pure enjoyment this is every bit as good as its recent *Bugsy Malone*, which won a West End transfer last year.

The concept of Goldsmith's great farce is that a man who cuts a swaggering dash with the wenches at the inn can become a gibbering wreck in polite female company. How to get him together with his intended, the genteel but mink-like Miss Kate Hardcastle? And how to marry his friend to her cousin, in the teeth of Mrs Hardcastle's itchy-palmed opposition? By a string of improbable coincidences, naturally, which have him believing that her home is an inn, and her father its keeper. Cue endless misunderstandings.

Charles Hart's witty book and lyrics take a fair few liberties with the original, but he easily keeps the exuberant good humour intact. Howard

Youth on the hoof

The National Youth Music Theatre

Goodall's attractive score moves from melodious mellowness to rumbustious revelry with assurance; the young band is note-perfect. The direction and choreography are full of lively detail. Hardly a second passes without some inspired buffoonery or delicate nuance.

The cast of 16 to 20-year-olds are energetically enthusiastic and focused. Seventeen-year-old Gina Beck as Kate Hardcastle, squealing away with pure-toned glee and quivering with perfectly articulated emotion, is highly promis-

ing. Ian Virgo as Tony Lumpkin, the scallywag who sets the whole scenario going, and Alexander Hassell as Charles Marlow, manically mugging away with painful awkwardness as Kate's reluctant beau, are capable of playing the comedy. So, too, are Neil Clench and Jess Brooks as the parents; Brooks in particular, playing 50 at 17, brings off the rather common Mrs Hardcastle with swooping vocal pyrotechnics. A latecomer to the party, with a bit more practice she will be perfect.

But it's really unfair to single anyone out. Each minor character has a moment in the spotlight; and the choruses are every bit as good. You can't put a quaver between them. Maybe the ending is a bit loose, and the crescendo at the end of the first half slightly forced; maybe one or two characters lack a bit of weight, and there was the occasional sign of nerves. But it all has the absolutely appropriate feel of a merry, bawdy dance. A treat.

NIGEL CLIFF

THEATRE

Poliakoff's BBC play

Author, author, author?

This play is billed as by Patrick Miles. But for get about that. You may forget about the production too, which is by an outfit named Weaver-Hughes Ensemble, but first things first.

The play is actually by Chekhov and is called *Ivanov* but you will search the six pages of the programme in vain for this author's name. In Chekhov's play, as in this one attributed to Mr Miles, Sara is Ivanov's Jewish wife, who becomes a Christian out of love for him, is cursed by her parents and dies of TB between Acts III and IV, having also lived miserably in Acts I and II.

Note what the press release tells us about this piece: "Focusing on Sara's story rather than Ivanov's, using music and symbols from contem-



Patrick Miles

rary culture, this challenging work invites questions about Chekhov, theatre, racism and women's roles in society." In that statement are eight examples of what I think Churchill called terminological inexactitudes. Let them pass. What I won't let pass is Miles's gall in foisting upon us little more than a straight translation and pasting his name on to it.

If I persuaded a fringe theatre to stage a play called *Ophelia* by Jeremy Kingston, a challenging work that invites questions about Shakespeare etc, an audience would expect some Stoppard-like interpenetration of the text focusing upon Polonius's daughter. After all, other people have done this sort of thing. Someone wrote a play about two Englishmen prowling among the cherry trees prospecting for Fuller's earth (they get a passing mention in Chekhov's Act IV), and there is a play called *Mrs Vershinin*, telling the story from her point of view.

What audiences at my *Ophelia* would not countenance is a virtual word-for-word recapitulation of the familiar five acts all the way from "Who's there?" to "Go, bid the soldiers shoot." I noticed a couple of changes from the original *Ivanov*. Idiotically, the page of Act I is lifted from its proper place and dumped in the middle of the following act.

The guests at Lebedev's party walk off, carrying their vodka glasses and flower-painted teacups, and on come Sara and Dr Lvov. Chat, chat, then off they go and back come the Lebedevs. It's meaningless. Ivanov's suicide is out and the play simply fades out.

Timothy Hughes (director) appears to have ordered the cast to keep moving, so round and round they go, clonk clonk. Shows this feeble give the Fringe a bad name.

JEREMY KINGSTON

OPERA & BALLET

COUSINS 0171 632 8330 (PG)
English National Opera
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

DANCE

PEACOCK THEATRE 011 418 8000
Sally Wells
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ADOLPH
011 418 8000 (PG)
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ADOLPH
011 418 8000 (PG)
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE

THEATRES

ALHAMBRA 011 418 8000
Tent 2.30 LA TRAMONTA
Tomorrow 4.30 (PG) MONTAIGNE



Jesse Armstrong, left, and Sam Bain, the unknown writers behind ITV's new sitcom *Days Like These*. "In America, entering a career of sitcom writing is like going into the City"

Comedy the American way

It's straight out of an episode of *Seinfeld*. Two chancers with scarcely a crumb of sitcom-writing experience between them get a call out of the blue to go to a swish hotel to meet the bosses of an American TV comedy powerhouse.

The execs are looking for raw and fresh talent to work on one of their shows. Our two heroes, whose sole on-air credits are a few gags for a breakfast show presenter, are so nervous that they can scarcely totter along the pavement to the hotel. Outside the hotel suite they notice a bundle of unsolicited scripts submitted by some of the biggest names in comedy writing. They take a huge gulp of air and knock on the door...

That's the situation Sam Bain from West London and Jesse Armstrong from Shropshire found themselves in last June. Their meeting was with the chiefs of Carsey-Werner, creators of the *Cosby* Show and *Roseanne*, and the project was a £2.5 million adaptation for British TV of an American sitcom, *That '70s Show*.

"We had no idea how to pitch ourselves," admits Armstrong. "We didn't know whether they wanted us to say 'Wow, we love the original so much that we're not going to change any of the lines', or 'We love the characters so much that we're going to rewrite the whole thing'."

They ended up adopting a middle position, which is evidently what the

Can two British unknowns and American comedy experts produce a much-needed hit for ITV? **Rajan Datar reports**

Americans wanted because Armstrong and Bain got the job. "I think it helped that we laughed hard — very hard — at all their jokes," says Bain candidly.

Nine months down the line, *Days Like These* is ready to be unleashed on a British audience, with the first episode making a prime-time appearance on the ITV network tonight. The show, set in a 1976 pre-punk period of decaying hippiedom, focuses on a group of bored, sexually obsessed teenagers and their relationships.

On the basis of watching one early episode, I have to say that it is not very good. On a good day, the overall impression would be knowing, ironic, post-modern even. On a bad day the programme resembles nothing more than a British *Brady Bunch*.

But even if my view were to be shared by the great British viewing public, there are two reasons why this show may avoid the comedy dustbin. First, because of the unprecedented investment of faith and cash. The show has, unusually, been granted a first run of 13 programmes — twice the normal length for a debut sitcom, which may allow time for the characters to establish themselves with a core audience. And secondly because

Armstrong and Bain are, in effect, the guinea-pigs in a new Anglo-American experiment in nurturing comedy-writing talent.

It involves the team-writing approach (used to write *Friends*, *Frasier* and *Seinfeld*) being hired by ITV's Network Director, David Liddiment, to deliver a much-needed hit. They choose to co-opt two inexperienced twenty-somethings to translate their scripts to a British audience rather than using their own seasoned American professionals to do the job. At Armstrong's Clapham flat, the affable duo explain to me that this is the first step in a process of learning their craft — an opportunity that has never been afforded to other fledgling British writers. "In the US," says Bain, "entering a career of sitcom writing is like going into the City — you can earn a heck of a lot of money." Armstrong elucidates: "There's a career structure there — you join the team, you do your 'spec script', you become a baby writer and then you work your way up to become a head writer on a show such as *Seinfeld*. It's a career option. Whereas here, up till now, you had to make up your own rules. We have been put in a position

because at an early stage in our career we're getting to learn all about the production of the show. We have got a chance to become British baby writers."

Apart from enjoying Carsey-Werner's patronage, their scripts for *Days Like These* are in the safe hands of Bob Spiers and John Bartlett, veteran makers of such British comedy hits as *Fawlty Towers*, *Absolutely Fabulous* and *Goodnight Sweetheart*.

The intention is to create a mainstream hit, something that British TV has been lacking, say Bain and Armstrong. "The problem with British sitcom is that there's a schism between not very good mainstream stuff and these pockets of inspiration on late-night BBC2 and Channel 4, such as *Alan Partridge* and *Father Ted*, which are cult hits. What we're trying to do is redefine the mainstream."

If nothing else, Bain and Armstrong, who met on a creative writing course at Manchester University, are refreshingly optimistic. In this way they do resemble the "Ivy League" in the US — the smart college graduates who make up so many of the junior ranks of hit-show comedy writing

teams across the Atlantic. Apparently it was this same kind of "can do" attitude that endeared them to Carsey-Werner in the first place.

Long-haired, bespectacled and the more laid-back of the two, Bain has attempted to write a novel, which he admits "didn't get anywhere", while temping as a secretary. Armstrong, meanwhile, worked for the Labour Party before falling victim to the party's success — his position as Doug Henderson's assistant was supplanted by a civil servant when the MP became Minister for the Armed Forces after the election.

They came together again, writing gags for Johnny Vaughan on the *Big Breakfast Show* as well as material for *Not the Jack Docherty Show* on Channel 5. If all goes well, Armstrong and Bain hope the next series of *Days Like These* will be commissioned as a 22-part series which will bring it in line with the American model, although the aim is not to base the new episodes so much on existing storylines. Did they resent, just a little, having to studiously follow the exact structure of the American version for the first series?

"Oh no, we're very pleased and a lot more wealthy than we were last year. And if people don't like it, we can just say that it wasn't our idea!"

• *Days Like These* begins at 8.30pm tonight on ITV.

Giving the past a future

Raymond Snoddy on the salvation of History Today

The popular historical magazine *History Today*, which broke such stories as the "mercy killing" of George V, has been saved for posterity for the second time.

The three private shareholders who own the magazine, which was founded in 1951 by Brendan Bracken, the chairman of the *Financial Times*, have decided to forgo the £1 million they might have received for it through a sale. Instead, they are to set up an educational trust and, over time, the shareholders' rights will be extinguished without financial competition.

"It would have been possible to sell the magazine to a 'good home', but publishing groups are subject to take-over and to sudden swings in philosophy," Hugh Stephenson told readers of the current issue in a statement on behalf of the owners.

Mr Stephenson, a former Editor of the *New Statesman*, is one of the three shareholders. The others are John Jackson, the chairman of the leisure group Ladbroke and of the law firm Mishcon de Reya, and Jerry Kuehl, an American television producer.

"What we have done, we have done with our eyes open," says Mr Stephenson. The three bought *History Today* from Pearson, the owners of the *Financial Times*, for £1 in 1981. Longman, the Pearson subsidiary that published the magazine, had tried to sell it and failed, and the closure date had been set.

Soon after the magazine was released from the over- heads of a large group, Mr Stephenson says, it became profitable. Its premises were above a pornography shop, now a restaurant, in Soho.

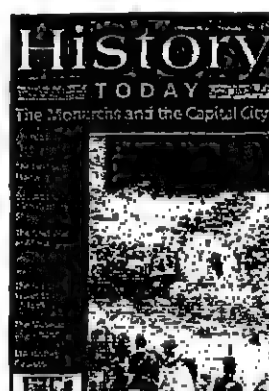
In 1997 the little company, which also publishes *History Review*, a publication aimed at A-level history students, made a profit of £63,000 on a turnover of £921,000, and similar profits are expected for 1998 when accounts are finalised. Since the three took over, *History Today's* circulation has grown from 10,000 to more than 30,000.

Over the years the glossy, well-illustrated publication has had many stories that have made headlines in the national press. Perhaps the most dramatic was that of George V. In 1986 *History Today* published the notes of Lord Dawson, the King's doctor, disclosing that the King's death was hastened by a lethal injection, not only to ease pain but to enable the news to make the

morning papers "rather than the less appropriate evening journals". Dawson advised the Editor of *The Times* to stand by for late news and, next morning, *The Times* headline proclaimed "A peaceful ending at midnight".

The current issue reveals that Leopold Amery, the Conservative politician who was instrumental in bringing down Chamberlain's Government in 1940, had hidden the fact that his mother was Jewish. The magazine notes that despite concealing his Jewish identity, he nevertheless supported Jewish causes whenever he could.

Other articles in the current issue range from a review of the first sex manuals, to the Cold War in Af-



Living on: History Today

ca and education in the 15th century. The magazine has also taken part in the debate about the teaching of history at university and whether "pick and mix" degrees that deal with many discrete topics produce graduates who lack background knowledge on the history of Western civilisation.

Since January 1998, *History Today* has been edited by Peter Furrado with a staff of eight.

The three owners, who are all in their sixties, were worried about the "uncertainties" that would be created if one of their number died and the shares passed to someone else who might not be greatly interested in the future of the magazine.

The first meeting of the *History Today* Trust will be held this month, with the three shareholders as the only three trustees. The aim is to appoint additional trustees later this year. Voting rights and effective ownership will gradually pass to the new trust until it has 100 per cent control.

Mr Jackson said that taking on the magazine had been "a genuine act of conservation" which had given a lot of pleasure and had been a financial success.

Metro editor sacked before launch

■ **TURMOIL** at *Metro*, the new free paper for London planned by Associated Newspapers. The Editor, Kim Chapman, has been forced to step down less than a month before the launch, to be replaced by Ian McGregor, an assistant editor on the *Daily Mail*. Press Gazette reports that Paul Dacre, Associated's Editor-in-Chief, thought that Chapman's dummies were not sophisticated enough for the target market of under-35 commuters. She was hired for the project from the *Reading Evening Post*, where she had been Editor.

■ **THE Radio Authority** is under fresh attack for the way it awards licences. Broadcast reports. Five failed bidders for licences in Hampshire wrote this week to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, complaining of "political influence" in the awards, one of which went to a company headed by a local MP. After complaints that other awards were handled improperly, Janet Leet, the RA's deputy head of programming, was suspended in December.

■ **THE telephone services watchdog Ictis** is to clamp down on ads for phone sex services in men's magazines. *Marketing Week* says the committee is to rule whether some of the ads in titles such as *Loaded* and *FLM* are unsuitable in magazines that are not kept on the newsagents' top shelves. If the complaints are upheld, the phone service providers — not the magazines — could be fined.

■ **COMMERCIAL** sponsored Christmas lights may be barred from London's West End after complaints about last year's displays, says *Marketing Week*. Westminster

City Council has asked traders to seek new means of funding because the Tango and Bird's Eye logos offended shoppers.

■ **REVAMPS/RELAUNCHES**: The *Mail on Sunday* reorganises its magazines and adds review section to attract young readers (Media Week). *Yorkshire Post* gets extra pages and new typography; *The Express on Sunday* reverts to its former title, *Sunday Express*; National Magazines' *Home* repositioned in middle market to compete directly with *House Beautiful* (Press Gazette).

■ **CHANGING FACES**: Martin Sixsmith, a former BBC reporter, leaves the DSS to head media relations at GEC; Anne Leroy-Sanguinetti, of the Paris HQ of Air France, will be communications manager in London (PR Week). Liz Jones leaves *The Sunday Times* to edit *Marie Claire*; Richard Brooks of *The Observer* is to be arts editor of *The Sunday Times*; Eric Bailey leaves *The Sunday Telegraph* to be executive editor of *The Mail on Sunday* (Press Gazette). Kevin Shute of Mills & Allen joins CIA Mediamarket as business development director (Media Week).

■ **GETTING THE BUSINESS**: Duckworth Finn Grubb Waters wins BHS creative account from Saatchi & Saatchi; Craik Jones is to handle marketing for Rover's Mini (Campaign). Banking group HSBC appoints Lowe & Partners Worldwide for its £150 million global ad account; WCRS awarded £45 million account by BUPA (Marketing).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

The euro is still off-message

ALTHOUGH most of Britain's national daily newspapers have waged an often xenophobic campaign against European monetary union, an opinion poll in *The Guardian* yesterday showed that support for joining the euro in Britain has "surged" to its highest level.

ICA found that 52 per cent remain in the Eurosceptic camp but that the number who would vote yes in a referendum has jumped by seven points in the past month to 36 per cent.

That poll and a new research study published this week by Carma (Computer Aided Research and Media Analysis), whose clients include BT, British Airways, Microsoft and Coca-Cola, raise again the intriguing question of whether voters are influenced by what they read in their newspapers.

The usual answer is that any link between newspaper campaigns and voting has never been proved — but most of us believe in our bones, as do our editors, that the relentlessly hostile spin on euro stories in *The Sun* and *Mail* must surely influence how some of their readers vote.

That spin is the main theme of the Carma study, which analysed 1,695 articles in the British national press and 1,702 in the French national press between May and January. Its conclusion is that the spin on the euro in British newspapers obscured the crucial issues involved in the launch of the euro, especially for business.

Sandra Macleod, the European managing director of Carma, says that the euro has been a "political football", with newspapers focused on the debate over whether to join instead of driving

The single currency has got a bad press, but does that really influence voters?

home the crucial messages that would have enabled voters and businesses to be better prepared and informed.

"If a newspaper's primary function is to inform, several in the UK concentrated too much on backing their own political horses while doing very little to shed proper light on a subject about which there is still great ignorance, to the detriment of their readers," the report says.

The *FT*, *International Herald Tribune* and *The Wall Street Journal* (Europe) shared with the French business press the most neutral and balanced coverage and devoted almost twice as much space to the euro.

The research showed that British broadsheets were more balanced than the tabloids (see table). *The Times* published 216 articles headlined EMU or Euro, and there were 217 in *The Daily Telegraph* (with the *Telegraph* alone accounting for one in five of William Hague's appearances).

In *The Times*, 27 per cent were favourable to 32 per cent unfavourable; in *The Daily Telegraph* the ratio was 20 to 44. *The Independent* (40 to 26) and *The Guardian* (37 to 23) were more inclined to be favourable. The papers with the highest proportion of balanced coverage were the *FT* (44), *The Times* (41), *The Guardian* (40), *The Daily Telegraph* (36) and *The Independent* (34).

The contrast with the British tab-

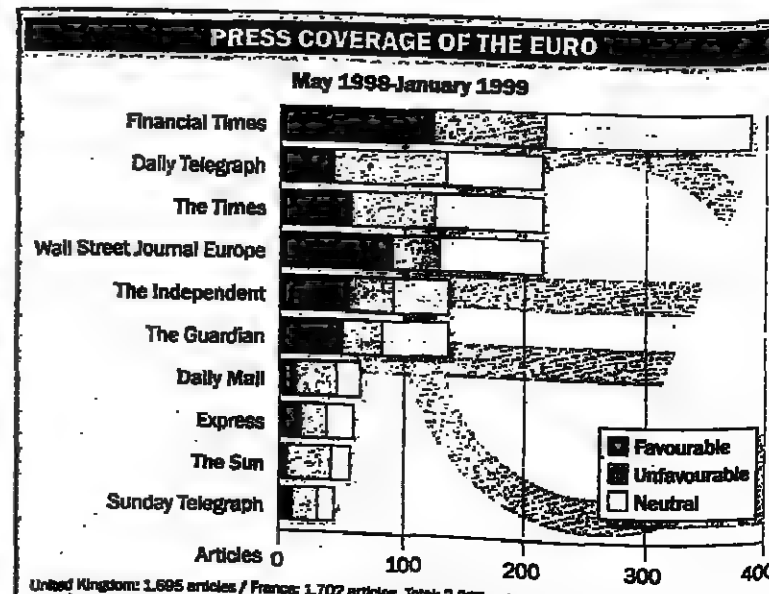
loids was stark. Under its slogan "The Pound in Peril", *The Sun* has been the most hostile of the British newspapers. Out of 56 articles, only five per cent were construed as favourable against 68 per cent unfavourable, with the ratio in the *Daily Mail* at 14 to a sceptical 57. Even *The Express*, whose proprietor Lord Hollick is a noted European enthusiast, had twice as many unfavourable headlines as favourable.

Yesterday's *Guardian* poll showed that women were far more hostile to the euro than men and that opposition is strongest among working class semi-skilled and manual DE voters, a con-

stituency where *The Sun* has 1.7 million readers and the *Mail* has 437,000. On its present course, *The Sun* will therefore be a powerful opponent of Tony Blair when he announces a referendum: only last month in a You the Jury poll, 12,000 *Sun* readers delivered a vote of 94 per cent against joining a single currency.

That opposition may explain why Alastair Campbell, Blair's press secretary, told the Fabian Society this week that almost every political debate in Britain was conducted in terms that fostered illusion.

Europe was an issue that the British press painted in largely sensationalist terms, he said. "Illusion leads to disappointment leads to cynicism leads to a pessimistic sense that change is impossible."



Hands off Blue Peter

Blue Peter is far bigger than its presenters. It talks to children on their own terms and they love it, says Maggie Brown

On Monday the departing Blue Peter presenter, Stuart Miles, tossed a mini hand grenade at this 40-year-old television treasure. A publicity stunt not entirely divorced from his search for a new job. He declared that the programme must become "more relevant, less twee, more hard-hitting".

He wants it to divorce itself from the legacy of its greatest former editor, Biddy Baxter, still working part-time as an adviser for the BBC, whose spirit hovers over its staple items about animals, making things and aspiring to do good for others.

So what was the Miles recipe for Blue Peter's survival in the new millennium? It should do more about drugs, eating disorders and bullying.

When I read his thoughts, two of the most repeatable words that popped into my head were "good riddance". But I write this article with two layers of knowledge. Although I am a busy media journalist, I am based at home and two of my children, aged five and nine, watch Blue Peter.

It is not perfect but it is on their wavelength. How do I know? Because they remember to turn it on week after week. And I see them acting on its suggestions. One key bit of evidence sits on my husband's bedside table. His Christmas present from the nine-year-old, a pot decorated with paper, was carefully crafted as instructed by a seasonal Blue Peter edition. The result is something that pocket money cannot buy.

But as a media journalist of 19 years' standing, I also watch the ratings and acknowledge that no programme can stand still.

This week Blue Peter gained a new editor, Steve Hocking, 37. He spoke soon after his appointment. He made it clear that he planned alterations. There have been extensive discussions within the BBC about evolutionary change to keep the programme fun, energetic and relevant.

Hocking's task is to ensure that it keeps faith with its audience, telling children that they can aspire to jump out of aeroplanes and to listen to classical music as well as pop.

As a former teacher, a father of three children and a school governor living in an Oxfordshire village, he is rooted. His vision is far removed from the trendy nonsense spouted by twenty-something presenters.

Hocking dislikes the move towards rebranding Blue Peter as BP. BP is now for petrol stations. He also told me that he planned regular "literary" slots. When I watched Blue Peter on Monday, there, on his first programme,



Blue Peter presenters Koonie Hug, Stuart Miles and Katy Hill publicise the evergreen show's latest appeal

was an item about the top-selling author J.K. Rowling.

On Wednesday night's programme, his second, came another initiative: children can win a Blue Peter badge by finding an interesting place in their locality and presenting an item about it: the first one was about a lighthouse.

What did Hocking think about the Miles agenda? "I feel quite angry about Blue Peter being branded twee and cautious. My feeling is that we [the BBC] make a lot of programmes which deal explicitly with these [drugs, bullying, etc] issues. But the seven to ten-year-old child [the target Blue Peter audience] is fully entitled to have a programme, whatever his or her domestic circumstances, that is positive and encourages them to have ambition."

What crude ratings do not show is that the programme has extended its influence since 1996, with repeats at breakfast time on BBC2. It attracts 47 per cent of the child audience, against 7

"The items that children like most on Blue Peter are about cooking, making things and pets. I am quite prepared to aggressively defend the right of children to have a factual, entertaining magazine programme on their own terms."

Blue Peter has run an item on drugs on its own terms: it showed how sniffer dogs are used to find illegal hoards. It does review films, but bands appear only if they are prepared to sing live. And then there are the appeals: Blue Peter is currently collecting aluminium to help to build schools in Mozambique.

What crude ratings do not show is that the programme has extended its influence since 1996, with repeats at breakfast time on BBC2. It attracts 47 per cent of the child audience, against 7

per cent for The Big Breakfast. In the afternoon, it holds on to 36 per cent of children.

My biggest recent criticism relates to last year, when the presenter Richard Bacon was sacked for taking drugs. The head of children's programmes, Lorraine Heggessey, dressed in black, went on air as the programme started, to give an explanation.

I was in my study. The children rushed in. "Come quickly, we think someone has died," they said. The Richard Bacon morality tale went completely over their heads. This is because, despite folk memories of John Noakes, Valerie Singleton et al, Blue Peter presenters are not as important as they think they are.

The show, Stuart Miles, is the star.

The reason I had to buy a Volvo

Advertising took another pounding this week as Sainsbury's laid out the blame for its poor profits announcement at the door of its John Cleese advertising campaign. There were also dark mutterings about Rover's advertising in the light of its slump in market share.

In the Sainsbury's case, there is little doubt that John Cleese hectoring us about the supermarket chain's low prices got up some viewers' noses. However, shoppers have not rejected the store. They have been coming through the doors — but once inside, they've been buying cheaper items. Funny that, since this was the theme of the ad campaign.

Rover's ads were panned last year for jumping on the "Cool Britannia" bandwagon with inappropriate products (the Rover 200 and 400) just as the bubble of that notion was about to burst. But it is impossible not to have some sympathy for Rover's ad agency as it searches for any special attributes on which to hang a campaign.

It is worth contrasting the muddled advertising of both Rover and Sainsbury's with the clarity of strategy and witty execution seen in a new ad campaign close to my heart — that for the restyled Volvo V40.

Actually, it was closer to my wallet than my heart when I bought a Volvo V40 estate last year. As someone who cannot tell his torque from his Torquemada, I accept that I am susceptible to the wiles of a clever car advertising campaign.

This time last year, though, the V40 had not been advertised. All I knew

was that we had to bite the estate-car bullet. We'd had two babies in a year and could not fit the double buggy in the boot of our Volkswagen Golf (I know that is boring, but so many purchasing decisions are made for boring reasons).

I also knew that my wife held a deep-rooted anti-Volvo prejudice that came from growing up surrounded by "coffins on wheels" in the Cotswolds — and also that the new V40 had been voted the world's most beautiful estate car by an Italian car magazine (the ad agency told me).

But from advertising campaigns I had gleaned that the Audi A4 Avant was attractive and not too big, and

home in Soho as in Burford; in which the child seat would fit snugly behind even my driving position — oh, and it had a safety cage and was £5,000 cheaper than the Audi.

Of course, none of this mattered. The salesman had begun by saying that the new V40 had been voted the most beautiful estate car in the world by an Italian car magazine. We didn't listen to another word he said and drove home smugly in a deep blue V40 with funky wheelcaps and heated seats. Please don't ask me how many litres the engine capacity is.

We then had to deal with the opprobrium heaped on our heads by single London friends and knowing Gloucestershire Volvo owners.

That was until those lovely people at Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO came up with a series of television commercials.

In one ad, a dog idles down a street, peeing on hub-caps until it comes to the V40, which is too beautiful to pee on. In another we see a V40 parked outside a remote, snow-covered house in Sweden while the couple within try to make babies with which to fill the car.

In a third, all we see are two headlights making their way serenely through a foggy landscape. The tagline is: "After all, looks aren't everything."

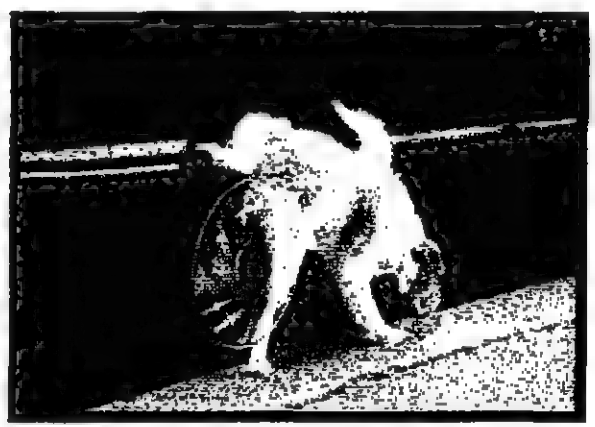
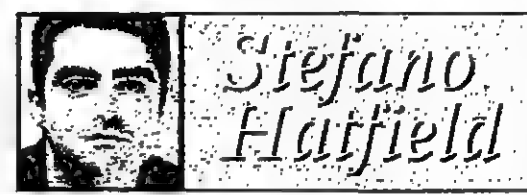
All three ads feature a small reminder that the Volvo V40 was judged "the most beautiful estate car in the world" by an Italian car magazine.

It just shows how slight an advertising idea can be and still work, and how vital it is that advertising contains a clearly communicable idea.

We may have bought our Volvo because the Passat was out of stock, the car seat fitted and it was five grand cheaper than the Audi, but no one now need ever know.

We may be covered in nappy cream and baby sick; and we may only need to buy a car because of a double buggy, and have The wheels on the Bus on a loop in the car stereo, but we can be as shallow as anyone else. Goddammit.

Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign



A clip from the advertisement for the Volvo V40

How do you film sudden death?

Ian Taylor, director of a new series on Birmingham's coroner, spent 12 weeks with dead bodies and grieving relatives

At the end of the cul-de-sac is a police car. Behind it officers stand in the doorway of a semi. All around the close, neighbours are watching a curtained window. It's the front bedroom. Inside, a man has hanged himself.

I'm there with a film crew, about to go in. No, this is not a docu-soap but The Coroner, a serious, old-fashioned documentary for Channel 4. We're following the work of the Birmingham Coroner and are about to enter the house with his officer to see the deceased.

I'm thinking many things at once — some professional, some selfish. Professionally, I'm aware that we are crossing boundaries. There will be questions asked about what is acceptable, about what is or is not in good taste. Selfishly, I'm thinking something quite different: Do I really want to see this? Isn't this the stuff of nightmares? And what of voyeur does it kind of voyeur does it make me? Seeing dead

bodies is one thing; to see someone who has hanged himself is like being a witness to the act of death itself.

But there isn't a lot of time to think and we follow the officers into the room. The cameraman knows the rules, drawn up over months of negotiation with the Birmingham Coroner. No shots of bodies, save an occasional glimpse of a hand or foot to show that there is actually something there. We have our own rules, too, when it comes to suicides — no shots that might indicate how the suicide was carried out (for fear of copycats). In this case it is, fortunately, impossible to work out how it was done, even though you can see a rope tied to a

door handle. We don't look too closely and just film what we have come to film — the coroner's officer at work.

Like all such officers (there are eight in Birmingham, who investigate on behalf of the Coroner) Stephanie Stephens is a former police officer. She is matter-of-fact in her questioning of the policeman in the eerie presence of the hanged man. This is not the first suicide she has come across. She waits for the coroner's undertakers to take the body away.

When they arrive they are friendly and efficient. They collect up to 15 corpses a day, from houses, from hospitals, from road accidents.

They take down the body, empty the pockets and pack the corpse in a bag, the rope still around its neck. (The pathologist will remove it at the post-mortem examination.)

It is only because of changing attitudes to death that we are filming this at all. In the Sixties I was shocked, when travelling abroad, to see in a newspaper the photograph of a road accident victim. Back home this would have been unthinkable. Today, forget your road accident victim; you can see real carnage in a news report from Kosovo.

Whether it is an advance is debatable, but in this case it has given us the opportunity to show for the first time the work of an important public service that, because it deals with a distasteful subject, has in effect remained a secret. It surprised me to learn that, in matters of death, it is the coroner, not the police, who provides citizens with greater protection against injustice.

The law requires all deaths for which a cause cannot be given to be



Peter Acland, a Home Office pathologist, investigates the cause of death

reported to the coroner, who then has a legal obligation to try to ascertain the cause of death. This reinforces the role of the police, who investigate a death only where there are signs, or suspicions, of foul play.

The broad scope of the coroner's remit means that our cases are remarkably varied — in a 17th-floor flat an old woman has lain dead for a month; a man is murdered by a

stranger he brings home from the pub; a baby girl is found suffocated.

We filmed for 12 weeks and could not prepare anything in advance. This was observational filming at its most risky. Who would agree to be filmed? For most relatives the first visit to the coroner's office is formally to identify the body. It was often on this visit that we were obliged to make our approach with a request to film.

In retrospect I'm astonished at the number of families who agreed. The first approach would always be made by the coroner's officer. If the relative agreed to meet me, I would then explain the purpose of the series. If they agreed to be filmed, we would go ahead there and then but would not assume that this represented permission to broadcast. They were then given time to consider (and withdraw) before signing a release, usually about a week later.

We accepted that any participant who had later had a change of mind could withdraw at any time up until the films were passed for transmission. One family chose to do so. Although the film was finished, their contribution was removed without protest and the film recut.

Why did people agree to be filmed? One family lost a 19-year-old son in a road accident. The parents agreed to donate his organs and felt that the publicity might produce some small good out of such a dreadful loss. They were well rewarded. The boy's aunt, who represented them at the inquest, ends that film with the most compelling advocacy for organ donation I have heard. Another family had a grievance — a man with a history of mental illness had committed suicide in prison. He should have been in hospital, the family say. They feel the inquest denies them justice and feel that the publicity might help.

As to the rest, one can only guess. Perhaps they felt that the recording of events somehow gave weight to them, lent occasion to something that might too soon be forgotten. Even the mother of the hanged man gave permission for the scene in the bedroom to be filmed. She was shown at the inquest sitting alone in a small room away from the main waiting area. She was ushered into court by a side door, anxious to avoid other family members who somehow held her responsible. In the event they abused her in the courtroom. Perhaps she just wanted us on her side. We were.

The first episode of The Coroner will be on Channel 4 on Tuesday at 9pm.

First mag for old new lads

Later will begin where Loaded left off, says Raymond Snoddy

Today, IPC Magazines will announce its biggest launch since last year's management buyout — a magazine for the lads from Loaded and FHM who have finally grown up. The new magazine, to be launched in the spring, will be called Later and have a marketing budget of more than £2.5 million.

IPC, sold off by the international information group Reed Elsevier, believes it revolutionised the young men's market in 1994 with the launch of Loaded and hopes to do so again.

The publishing director of Later, Andy McDuff, is the man who launched Loaded — a magazine aimed at "hedonistic young men who like to have 12 pints of lager and a kebab".

The new magazine will still be "sexy and entertaining" but will also recognise that now those readers are older, jobs are turning into careers and permanent relationships are starting to intrude.

The idea was brought to IPC by Phil Hilton, who edited Men's Health and will now edit Later.

The men's magazine market, which has existed for less

than a decade, has shown phenomenal growth, fuelled by the launch not just of Loaded but also of magazines such as FHM and Maxim. Maxim has already crossed the Atlantic and FHM is likely to follow later this year.

Since 1995, the number of copies sold in the sector has more than doubled to 1.5 million a month.

The sector's annual retail value has risen to £76 million.

The existing readership is predominantly in the 18 to 24 age group. The prize for IPC could be considerable if it managed to "reach the elusive older audience".

The target market for Later will be 25 to 40-year-old men, and IPC claims that it will offer "a fresh agenda for men entering a new phase in their lives".

IPC, under chief executive Mike Matthews, believes that no existing magazine fills such a gap, and that both the concept and dummies of Later have researched well.

Later will be the second big consumer magazine launch so far this year. Earlier this month, Emap came out with one of its biggest launches — the £5 million entertainment and listings magazine Heat.



IPC chief Mike Matthews

media times

Programmes that make a difference

Documentaries are under fire but Roger Graef has confidence in his. By Frances Gibb

Timing, Roger Graef believes, is all. Had it not been for what he calls an "accident of timing", female rape victims could still be facing insensitive handling by police. But his landmark documentary series on Thames Valley Police was broadcast in the early Eighties at a moment when rape was top of the news agenda; and the film proved a catalyst for changing police practice. Without that coincidence, the film might have disappeared without trace. As it was, it changed public policy.

Now he hopes the timing is right a second time. His three-part series *In Search of Law and Order*, which targets the criminal justice system and how it deals with young offenders, is being screened on Channel 4, with the second programme going out on Sunday.

"For a long time the debate has been driven by a simplified notion of what crime is and what makes people offend," he says. "Everyone likes having scapegoats... and the notion that individuals are evil and that punishing them hard enough will stop both them and others has a wonderful neatness to it."

The media have played their part, he says. "Playing on people's fears sells newspapers." The law and legal system is strait-jacketed in its approach, often because there is no alternative, he says. "Judges know that their sentences are often pointless. They have no expectation that prison will rehabilitate, but in a climate that believes 'prison works', they can do little else."

Three in four young offenders locked

up are reconvicted within three years, he says. "So we send them away at the cost of sending them to Eton, and it fails. Punishment means something to you and me. But with these kids, the threat of punishment means much less. They are punished all the time. They are punished by the very situation they are in; their parents often beat hell out of them. And the biggest predictor of crime is harsh, erratic parenting."

So, over five years, between books and other films (a recent production was the acclaimed *Keeping it in the Family: What Shall We Do About James?*), Graef toured the United States and countries in Europe to find ways of dealing with young criminals other than by locking them up.

The series focuses on successful work in three cities, Fort Worth, Texas, Boston, Massachusetts, and Richmond, in California.

In Boston, prosecutors have forged an alliance of schools, churches and former offenders in what is called Operation Nightlight to try to reduce juvenile killings. In Texas, there are schemes for supporting the families of juveniles on probation whose fathers are in prison. In Richmond, the local health centre and schools hire former gang members to work with children and battered young mothers.

Graef admits that, in television terms, "selling" good works is not as easy as depicting violence or crime. Arousing interest in the series was initially hard, so he made it first for the American market.

But the political climate in Britain has changed. The Lord Chief Justice,



Roger Graef: Investigating alternatives to locking up young offenders

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, has talked of the need for society to look at the roots of crime, break the cycle of deprivation and introduce better community alternatives to imprisonment.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has already seen Graef's series, and extracts from it will be used at the launch of his youth offending teams on March 8. The idea is that these teams will put up schemes which the Youth Justice Board can finance with an £85 million development fund.

The timing, Graef admits, is again fortuitous. Politicians, judges and others in the criminal justice system are already onside. But his programmes still need to create the right climate of support among the public. "My message is that you can't leave the problem

of what to do with young offenders to the justice system. It is an inadequate tool to deal with the problem: it is looking at punishing people for the past, not at dealing with the future."

He hopes to bring home to those who "pontificate in their pubs and clubs what the world for young offenders is actually like". More than that, he hopes the concrete examples of what can be done with such offenders will change attitudes. "I have had letters from people who have seen the programmes. One man said that he wondered 'What has this to do with me?' Then, by the end, he knew what it had to do with him."

● In *Search of Law and Order*, Channel 4, Sunday, February 14 and 21.

How Campbell aims to divide and rule

To criticise Downing Street press spokesmen for trying to get positive coverage for their bosses and then attacking the media when they don't is as pointless as condemning cats for chasing mice. Naturally the spokesmen want to persuade the press to follow the official agenda — rather than leaving reporters to indulge, as Alastair Campbell put it this week, their "obsession with trivia, travel expenses, comment and soap opera".

It would, of course, be trivial to observe that Campbell's attack on the media for its lack of seriousness came just after his search for profound political coverage took Tony Blair to *This Morning* with Richard and Judy to discuss holidays and the future of Glen Hoddle. Nothing new there. Margaret Thatcher's favourite media outlet was the *Jimmy Young Show* on Radio 2.

Yet Campbell's lecture this week at the Fabian Society did contain a number of serious points, some more serious than others. Blair's chief spin-doctor believes that the broadcast media still allow their agenda to be set for them by newspapers that have become ever more cynical and less and less willing to cover the important political debates of the day.

Therefore, Campbell believes, it is time for broadcasters to create their own agenda free of the poisonous influence of the press. He wants to see a divorce between the print and the broadcast media. "Live media is where it's at," Campbell believes, and no one will be surprised to learn that the live broadcast he has in mind for politicians is the opportunity to appear live, unedited and largely unchallenged. What he has in mind is not robust political interviewing but an endless succession of party political broadcasts.

A polite smile is the only sensible response to Campbell's broadcasting demands except on two issues. Sometimes the robustness of the questions, particularly on the *Today* programme, descends into rude, persistent interrupting that disrupts the flow of ideas, prevents sentences from being completed and adds nothing to human understanding. The second issue was the BBC's disgraceful decision to dump a modest segment of edited but uninterrupted coverage of the House of Commons, *Yesterday in Parliament*, on a long wave, where few will hear it.

Campbell's much more interesting point is

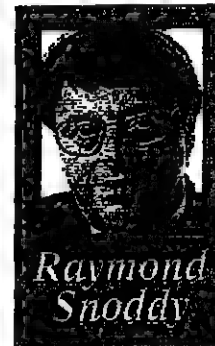
whether broadcasters could or should develop their own agenda rather than following that set by the newspapers. The idea is superficially attractive. Wouldn't it be nice to have contrasting views of the world rather than having to watch the different branches of the media play games of tag? It is also wholly impractical. It is no coincidence that despite all the immediacy of broadcasting and its ability to show events, such as natural disasters, it is so often newspapers that dig out the stories that change things for good or ill.

It is partly a matter of resources and time. The national press represents one of the largest bodies of journalists in the UK, and although daily deadlines seem challenging to those involved, they are positively luxurious to those working in often underfunded 24-hour electronic newsrooms. For many specialist bi-media BBC journalists, life can be an exhausting round of rushing from microphone to camera, feeding one outlet after another with instant reaction. To think that such people can devote days to digging out a unique story of their own, or establishing their own agenda, is a tall order.

The cumbersome nature of the medium also means that, unless they are very lucky, broadcasters will not get the most important stories. Someone who wants to leak a confidential document is unlikely to rush before the cameras to be identified doing so.

The age of 24-hour broadcast news has helped to create a more unified news culture in the past few years. In every broadcast newsroom every national newspaper is mined routinely as a source of stories — and 24-hour TV news channels are watched on every newspaper newsdesk for breaking stories. The chain of news, reaction and counter-reaction is now seamless and unbreakable and that is why it is now often only a matter of days before the breaking of a "scandal" and the departure of the errant politician or football manager. The combined firepower of both press and broadcast media aimed at one subject can be awesome — which is probably why Campbell is trying to drive a wedge between the two. He would have more chance of success standing as a Labour candidate in Huntingdon.

But at least when his spinning days are over Alastair Campbell sounds as if he may be able to make a decent living as a newspaper columnist and TV political commentator.



Raymond Snoddy

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 481 4481

MEDIA & MARKETING

FAX:
0171 782 7826

SALES REPS URGENTLY REQUIRED

Young, enthusiastic, self-motivated sales reps required to cover all areas of the UK. Easy selling, good commissions, own transport is essential.

Please send in your CV's by fax to 01442-828061 or by post to The Original Radiator Cabinet Co. Freeport (SCE 6943), Tring, Herts, HP23 5BN.

ANGLO FRENCH ADJUSTERS WEST LONDON

We act for European insurance companies handling their accident claims in the UK. We need a fluent French speaker/writer to join our specialised multi-lingual team. Would suit a recent Graduate. Some experience of insurance or accident law an advantage but not essential, we will give you training. Salary according to experience.

Please write, enclosing CV in the first instance to Pierre Thomas, Anglo French Adjusters, 1 Cambridge Court, 218 Shepherd's Bush Road, London W6 7NL.

BOND SOLON SOLICITORS/TRAINING

Leading niche legal training company wants Sales and PR Consultant (2yrs + exp) to sell legal/witness training and increase existing high profile.

Basic £16,000 and commission realistic OTE - £25,000.

Send letter and cv to Bond Solon Training, 11 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4BP.

CAN DO WILL DO!

As a PLC publisher, we can offer you the most exciting and rewarding career in advertising sales. If you meet the following:

- Ideally resident in London
- Graduates / Graduate calibre
- Sense of humour
- As our 280 strong salesforce can prove, we do offer you:
- Commitment to initial and ongoing career development
- Excellent commission or basic + commission packages
- Up to 25-40K OTE
- Company car and health schemes

0171 515 8943

Solution Sales

Financial Services Software
Trading, Risk Management
& Operations

OTE £120,000 +

London, Frankfurt, Madrid,
Milan, Paris

In the first instance, please send, fax or e-mail your details to:
Ref: ST-0199, Recruitment Manager,
Infinity - a SUNGARD Company,
33 St Mary Ave, London EC3A 8AA.
Fax: +44 (0)171 337 6182
Tel: (direct line) +44 (0)171 337 6185
E-mail: resume@infinity.com

Outstanding opportunities with a global leader

Infinity is a world leader in the provision of financial services software with a client base of over 1500 installations. As part of the strategy to maintain our number one position as a global supplier of financial services software, we have recently announced the formation of Global Professional Services - to better provide new and existing clients with a total solutions framework with state-of-the-art software supported by world-class teams of consultants and financial experts.

We are currently looking to build on our existing, successful sales organisation by recruiting a number of senior-level sales executives with responsibility for a number of selected accounts and multi-million dollar targets in the City and other areas within Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Ideally with a background in Finance, Software or Consultancy, you will have been responsible for selling high-value products or solutions and can develop and manage relationships at the highest level.

These are important positions offering opportunities to greatly enhance earnings and careers within this high-growth software sector. Successful candidates will be attracted to working in an entrepreneurial, multi-discipline environment, with a strong interest in helping to build a truly global business. It is likely that candidates will be of degree calibre.

INFINITY
A SUNGARD COMPANY

www.infinity.com

Integrating the financial enterprise™

Infinity, a SunGard Company, provides enterprise solutions for financial trading, risk management and operations. Its customers are banks, asset managers, corporates and government treasuries of every size, geographic spread and operational complexity. Only Infinity's adaptable applications integrate all the trading, risk management and operations activities of the enterprise. Infinity, a SunGard Company, is an operating unit of SunGard Data Systems Inc. (NYSE: SDS), the largest specialised provider of proprietary investment support systems, a pioneer and leading provider of comprehensive computer disaster recovery services and a provider of proprietary healthcare information systems. SunGard Data Systems can be reached at www.sungard.com. Infinity can be reached at www.infinity.com.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

requires

SENIOR SUB-EDITORS

We are looking for top-flight sub-editors who can display the highest standards of accuracy to work on the production of regional news and features in our London office. The successful candidates will be used to handling copy, building electronic pages and writing good headlines against tight deadlines. An understanding of current affairs in Scotland and/or Ireland would also be a distinct advantage.

Apply in writing, with a full cv, to:

Ian Coxon, Managing Editor (Production)
The Sunday Times, 1 Pennington Street
London, E1 9XW

CREATIVE FRAGRANCES distributes prestigious fine fragrance and cosmetic brands including Paco Rabanne, Gucci, Dunhill, Rochas, Quorum and Nina Ricci to all major UK retailers.

AREA SALES MANAGERS

c. £22,000 + bonus + car

Ref: D 02156

Scotland/North East, or Southern England

To manage Cosmopolitan Cosmetics brands through a large established account portfolio. An experienced sales professional, ideally from a blue-chip business.

TERRITORY MANAGER

c. £18,000 + bonus + car

Ref: D 03157

Northern Home Counties/East Midlands

To manage Creative Fragrance brands through existing chemist and department stores. Previous sales experience would be useful but it is not essential, as full training will be given.

REGIONAL TRAINER

c. £16,000 + bonus + car

Ref: D 03158

Location: open

To join the nation-wide Training Team with responsibility for the training of all cosmetics and fragrance brands. Previous cosmetics/skincare sales experience is essential.

TO APPLY, please send your CV, quoting the appropriate reference number to The Recruitment Team, Birdingbury Hall, Birdingbury, Warwickshire, CV23 8EW.
Telephone: 01926 633560. Fax: 01926 632403.

Our Future
is Business Internet Applications.

What's Yours?

CommUnity Internet plc and its design agency the big idea are looking for a **SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR** with vision and the ability to accelerate the growth of our Oxford-based business.

For a job description and details of how to apply, please visit our website at: <http://www.community.co.uk/new/vacancies.html>

Business centres and serviced office accommodation is one of the fastest growing industries today. As part of our exciting UK and European expansion programme Abbey Business Centres require **Sales and Marketing Director OTE £60-£8K**

You will be an enthusiastic, self-motivated manager with a proven track record in sales and marketing. You will have excellent presentation skills, be IT literate and have the tenacity to approach required to drive forward the sales and marketing of a fast-growing business. You will have the people skills required to develop a team to support this. Position based in Thames Valley.

For our new centres in Bracknell and Slough ABC requires **Centre Managers Salary £20K-£25K + Bonus £5-£10K**

You will be sales-orientated, commercially aware and have the skills to lead and motivate your team enabling the business centre to achieve its targets. You will have management experience in a customer focused industry. Ideal opportunity for those in retail/hotel management to progress within this young expanding company.

Please send your CV and salary details to Sandra Kelly, Abbey Business Centres, 20/23 Woodside Place, Glasgow G3 7QF. Abbey Business Centres. Closing date - Friday 12th February 1999

EXPORT SALES MANAGER

Calcarb Ltd produces rigid carbon thermal insulation for vacuum and controlled atmosphere furnaces.

The company is now looking for an Export Sales Manager to manage and develop sales into Europe, USA and Far East.

The successful applicant will have a science degree or equivalent and preferably a refractory or furnace background.

A strong technical sales approach is required.

This is a senior position with a growing company and the successful candidate will be expected to quickly assume a lot of responsibility currently handled by the International Sales Director.

Please forward current CV to:

John Morgan, International Sales Director,
Calcarb Ltd., 12 North Road,
Bellehill, North Lanarkshire ML4 1EN

House of Lords

Law Report February 12 1999

House of Lords

Setting conditions is development consent Power to hear academic appeals not exercised

Regina v North Yorkshire County Council, Ex parte Brown and Another

Before Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Lloyd of Berwick and Lord Hoffmann [Speeches February 11]

The setting of conditions, under section 22 of and Schedule 2 to the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, by a mineral planning authority upon the continued operation of a quarry, worked under a 1947 deemed planning permission, was a development consent for the purposes of article 2(1) of Council Directive (85/337/EEC) (QJ 1985 L175/40), which required an environmental impact assessment to be made before consent was given for projects likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Since the Town and Country Planning (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations (SI 1988 No 1199), which established the criteria for England and Wales for identifying those projects whose characteristics were such as to require an assessment, applied only to grants of planning permission, it was for the secretary of state to establish the criteria for decisions under the 1991 Act.

The House of Lords held in dismissing an appeal by North Yorkshire County Council from the order of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Pill) (The Times February 9, 1998; [1998] Env LR 388) allowing an appeal by Marilyn Brown and Lesley Carwright from the dismissal by Mr Justice Hadden (1997) Env LR 391 of their motion for judicial review

of the council's decision to set conditions for the continued working of a quarry at Preston-under-Scar without having conducted an environmental impact assessment.

Mr Timothy Straker, QC and Mr Philip Kevin for the council; Mr Richard Gordon, QC and Mr William Birles for the respondents.

LORD HOFFMANN said that Preston-under-Scar was a village in North Yorkshire, designated as a conservation area. Near the village was Wensley Quarry, from which limestone had been extracted for many years.

Planning permission was granted in 1947. That old permission was not subject to any time limit or conditions. It allowed quarrying not merely in the existing quarry but over some 322 hectares of the surrounding countryside.

Old mining permissions such as that for Wensley Quarry existed in many parts of the country. In a time of greater environmental consciousness, of which the Directive was one manifestation, they gave rise to two kinds of problem.

First, there was no register from which their existence could be discovered. A register of planning applications was first introduced in 1947 but did not record earlier permissions which were deemed to continue.

So the commencement or resumption of mining or quarrying sometimes came as an unpleasant surprise to people who had bought property in the area many years after the permission had been granted.

Second, the old permissions were frequently, as in the case of

Wensley Quarry, indefinite in duration and subject to no conditions for the protection of the local environment, such as limits on hours of working, noise, vibrations, dust emissions and so on.

Section 22 of and Schedule 2 to the 1991 Act had addressed both those points.

It required the owners of land with the benefit of old mining permissions to apply to the local mineral planning authority for their registration within six months of September 25, 1991.

If they did not do so, the permission ceased to have effect. If they applied in time and the mineral planning authority was satisfied that the permission existed, it was obliged to grant the application. By that means, a register of all existing permissions was created.

Once the application for registration had been granted, the owner of the land became entitled to apply to the mineral planning authority to determine the conditions to which the permission was to be subject.

If no application was made within the stipulated period, the permission ceased to have effect. The authority was given a very wide discretion to impose conditions for the protection of the environment.

The imposition of conditions upon the exercise of a planning permission usually took place concurrently with the grant of the permission.

That was sufficient to bring it within the European concept of a development consent. The purpose of the Directive was to ensure that planning decisions which might affect the environment were made on the basis of full information. It had a wide scope and a broad purpose.

A decision as to the conditions under which a quarry could be operated could have a very important effect on the environment. It could protect it by imposing limits on noise, vibration and dust, requiring the preservation of important natural habitats or the reinstatement of damaged land.

The Directive did not apply to decisions which involved merely the detailed regulation of activities for which the principal consent, raising the substantial environmental issues, had already been given.

But the procedure created by the 1991 Act was not merely a detailed regulation of a project in respect of which the substantial environmental issues had already been considered.

Its purpose was to give the mineral planning authority a power to assess the likely environmental effects of old mining permissions which had been granted without, to modern ways of thinking, any serious consideration of the environment at all.

It was true that the power to deal with those effects was limited to the imposition of conditions rather than complete prohibition. But the procedure was nevertheless a new and freestanding examination of the issues and could therefore require the information provided by an environmental impact assessment. It was therefore a "development consent" within the meaning of the Directive.

That did not mean that the council was necessarily obliged to undertake an assessment. That depended upon whether it took the view that the characteristics of the decision required one.

It was for the secretary of state to establish the criteria for making that decision, as he had done for planning permissions in the 1988 Regulations, and for the council to apply those criteria.

Lord Nicholls, Lord Goff, Lord Jauncey and Lord Lloyd agreed. Solicitors: Rees & Freres for Mr Richard Oakley, Northallerton; Richard Buxton, Cambridge.

LORD STYNN said that Mr Salem was a Libyan national who had arrived in the United Kingdom on April 12, 1997 and claimed asylum. He had been granted temporary admission and awarded income support and related social security benefits.

On May 7 the Home Office had recorded on an internal file, without telling Mr Salem, that "asylum has been refused" and the claim is hereby recorded as having been determined.

On November 5 Mr Salem had been told by the Benefits Agency that his income support had been stopped because the Home Office had informed them that he had been refused asylum.

Mr Salem had applied for leave to move for judicial review of the secretary of state's decision to notify the Department of Social Security that his claim to asylum had been recorded as determined. Mr Justice Tucker had refused leave.

On Mr Salem's renewed application, the Court of Appeal had decided to hear the substantive application. And by a majority, dismissed it. On June 29, 1998, the House of Lords had allowed a petition by Mr Salem for leave to appeal.

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Salem

Before Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde [Speeches February 11]

The House of Lords had a discretion to hear an appeal where there was an issue involving a public authority as to a question of public law even if by the time the appeal reached the House there was no longer a lis to be decided that would directly affect the rights and obligations of the parties inter se.

Subsequently, following an appeal to a special adjudicator, Mr Salem had been granted refugee status. When the appeal had been called on in the House of Lords, on January 18, 1999, he had accepted that his claims to income support and housing benefit would be satisfied and that there was no live issue relating to his position.

Mr Blake, however, had contended that the appeal should continue since there was still a general issue of public importance as to when it could be said that an asylum claim was "determined" by the secretary of state within the meaning of regulation 70(3A)(b) of the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 (SI 1987 No 1487), as inserted by regulation 2 of the Income Support (General) Amendment Regulations 1993 (SI 1993 No 1679), and amended by regulation 3(4)(d) of the Social Security (Persons From Abroad) Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations 1996 (SI 1996 No 30) so that an applicant ceased to be an asylum-seeker.

His Lordship accepted, as Mr Blake and Mr Pannick agreed, that in a case where there was an issue involving a public authority as to a question of public law the House of Lords had a discretion to hear an appeal even if by the time

the appeal reached the House there was no longer a lis to be decided that would directly affect the rights and obligations of the parties inter se.

The decisions in *Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada v Jarvis* (1994) AC 111 and *Ainsbury v Millington* (1997) 1 WLR 379, and the reference to the latter in rule 42 of *Practice Directions Applicable to Civil Appeals* (January 1996) of the House of Lords, had to be read accordingly as limited to disputes concerning private law rights between the parties.

The discretion to hear disputes, even in the area of public law, had, however, to be exercised with caution and appeals that were academic between the parties should not be heard unless there was a good reason in the public interest for doing so, as, for example, but only by way of example, when a discretionary point of statutory construction arose that did not involve detailed consideration of facts and where a large number of similar cases existed or were anticipated so that the issue would most likely need to be resolved in the near future.

The present was not such a case. Although a question of statutory construction arose, the facts were by no means straightforward and in other cases the problem of when a determination was made might depend on the precise factual context.

Mr Pannick had told the House that only in a few cases had the question arisen. Moreover, pursuant to a White Paper published in July 1996 *Fairer, Faster and Firmer: A Modern Approach to Immigration and Asylum* (Cm 4018), it might be that the procedures to be followed would be reconsidered.

Lord Mackay, Lord Jauncey, Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde agreed. Solicitors: Tyndallwoods, Birmingham; Treasury Solicitor.

No offence to show indecent film of child only to oneself

Regina v T
Before Lord Justice Waller, Mr Justice Kay and Judge Hyam [Judgment February 4]

An offence under section 1(1)(c) of the Protection of Children Act 1978 was not complete if a defendant in possession of an indecent photograph of a child had shown it only to himself.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing an appeal by T against his conviction on March 2, 1998, at Chichester Crown Court on a plea of guilty, after a ruling by Judge Thorpe, to possession of an indecent photograph of a child contrary to section 1(1)(c) of the 1978 Act.

Section 1(1) of the 1978 Act provided: "It is an offence for a person to be in possession of an indecent photograph or film of a child or to make any indecent photograph or film of a child or to distribute or show such indecent photographs or films to another person or to show such indecent photographs or films to himself or others."

Mr John M. Burton, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Michael Warren, who did not appear below, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER, giving the judgment of the court, said that the relevant count in the indictment was in the following terms: "possessing an indecent photograph contrary to section 1(1)(c) of the Protection of Children Act 1978" and the particulars of the offence alleged that he had "in his possession an indecent film of a child with a view to showing such film".

The facts that the appellant admitted in relation to that count were that he had in his possession the indecent film but he had only shown it to himself.

The prosecution were not seeking to demonstrate that he showed it to anyone else but maintained that it was sufficient that he showed it to himself for him to be guilty.

The appellant's contention below and on appeal was that "show" carried with it the connotation that it was shown to a third party. It was pointed out that by section 1(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 there had in fact now been created a summary offence of possession of an indecent photograph of a child.

Their Lordships agreed that the appellant's construction of the section was right for the following reasons:

1. When one read section 1(1)(b), "to distribute or show such indecent photographs" had to mean showing to somebody not oneself. That construction was further supported by *R v Fellows and Arnold* (1997) 1 Cr App R 244 where it was held that "showing" data stored on a computer meant to other persons and not to the person in possession himself.

2. It would be quite impossible to contend that "showing" in section 1(1)(c) had a different meaning from the meaning in section 1(1)(b). 3. It would not have been necessary to pass section 1(1) of the 1978 Act, making simple possession an offence, if it was already an offence under section 1(1)(c) of the 1978 Act.

Accordingly, it seemed to their Lordships clear that the appellant pleaded guilty on a wrong construction of the law and his conviction on that count had to be quashed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Chichester.

Correction
In *R v Ministry of Defence, Ex parte Walker* (The Times February 11) the headline was misleading in that all three judges agreed that the tank shot was a crime of violence but the majority held that Walker's claim was rejected by the military activity exclusion.

Directive on holiday time directly enforceable

Gibson v East Riding of Yorkshire District Council

Before Mr Justice Morison, Mr P. Dawson and Mrs R. Vickers [Judgment January 29]

A swimming instructor employed by a local authority who was paid an hourly rate and was not paid during school holidays, was entitled to four weeks paid annual leave under the Working Time Directive (93/104/EEC) (QJ 1993 L307/18) which was directly enforceable by her.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when allowing an appeal by Mrs Lorraine Gibson from a decision of a Hull industrial tribunal in January 1998, that she could not rely on the provisions of the directive to claim holiday entitlement and that her claim under section 13 of the Employment Rights Act 1996, that her employers, the East Riding of Yorkshire District Council, had made unlawful deductions from her wages by not paying her for annual leave, failed.

The applicant had appealed on the ground that the industrial tribunal had erred in law in failing to apply article 7 of the directive which provided that every worker was entitled to paid leave of at least four weeks and which was directly enforceable by the applicant against the council as an emanation of the state.

Article 7 of the directive provided: "1. Member states shall take the measures necessary to ensure that every worker is entitled to annual leave of at least four weeks in accordance with the conditions laid down by national legislation and/or practice."

Miss Jennifer Eady for Mrs Gibson; Mr Nigel Wray for the council.

MR JUSTICE MORISON said that the Working Time Directive was adopted by the Council of Ministers of the European Communities on November 23, 1991. It was not until October 1, 1998 that the Working Time Regulations (SI 1998 No 1833) came into force.

The industrial tribunal had concluded that the applicant was not entitled to paid annual leave, its reasoning was that the directive did not meet the criteria laid down by the Court of Justice of the European Communities in a number of decisions but was a complex directive subject to extremely complex exceptions and derogations. As a health and safety measure the directive did not give any entitlement to holiday pay but merely to paid holiday leave.

His Lordship said that a provision of the EC Treaty or of a directive could only have direct effect in the laws of the member states if it was sufficiently precise and unconditional. A directive remained sufficiently precise even if its precise scope would require the European Court to interpret its provisions.

In the employment field the test of conditionality was satisfied if the provisions of the directive identified the beneficiaries of the right, the person under a duty to give effect to the right, and the nature and extent, or content of the right.

A directive would be regarded as conditional if, before implementation, the member state was required to have consultation with the Commission. But the fact that the directive provided precise derogations from its terms by member states did not itself render the directive conditional.

It was the duty of the court in applying national law to ensure fulfilment of the obligation arising from a directive to achieve the result envisaged by the directive, since a directive was binding on all the authorities of the member states, including, for matters within their jurisdiction, the courts; see *Marleasing SA v La Comercial Internacional de Alimentacion SA* (Case C-106/89) (1990) ECR I413.

Although directives had direct effect, they did so only in relation to employees of an emanation of the state. That was because the directive itself was a provision directed to national governments and the state, or a state related employer, could not take advantage of its own failure to introduce legislation into domestic law which fully gave effect to the provisions of the directive.

There was much to be said for the conclusion reached by the industrial tribunal. But on balance the industrial tribunal accepted the submission that article 7 had direct effect. They would look first at the totality of the directive to set the context and then consider the particular article.

As an emanation of the state the council could not rely on the lack of domestic legislation to defeat her claim. She was entitled to four weeks paid annual leave.

Solicitors: Thompsons; Mrs Jane Birdshaw, Beverley.

● Law Reports are also published in the Internet edition, contemporaneously with the published newspaper, on <http://www.the-times.co.uk> (free registration). Back issues may be reached from the front page of the day.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT AND TO CREDITORS TO SUBMIT CLAIMS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MR JOHN HENRY GORDON, DECEASED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executors of the will of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, have resolved to appoint a Receiver of the Estate of the late Mr John Henry Gordon, deceased, to receive and collect the assets of the estate and to distribute the same to the persons entitled thereto.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THESE SECTIONS PLEASE:

Telephone 0171 680 8878

Fax 0171 782 7930

Or Email tr.features@newsint.co.uk

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

HANDS UP WHO'S NOT COLLECTING

Children need more books

THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE BOOKS SCHOOLS

A BIG BOOST IN THE CLASSROOM
Whether you have no children or your children are grown up, still collect tokens and give them to a school in your area. They will appreciate your support.

MAKE THEIR

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 680 6800

EDUCATION

FAX:
0171 782 7899

EASTER REVISION

ABBEY easter 99 revision

The Abbey Group of Colleges - well known for excellence in education.

LONDON CAMBRIDGE
0171 229 5928 01223 328686

BIRMINGHAM MANCHESTER
0121 236 7474 0161 236 6836

A LEVEL AND GCSE EASTER REVISION

WEEK 1: 29 MARCH - 2 APRIL WEEK 2: 5 - 9 APRIL WEEK 3: 12 - 16 APRIL

HELPLINE

The CIFE Helpline provides free, objective and impartial advice on the courses offered by its members, the accredited independent Sixth Form Colleges with the highest academic standards.

If you are seeking:

- A change of school following GCSE
- A wider range of A Level subjects
- A Level retakes
- Easter Revision for GCSE or A Level
- A Summer course to bolster you for the coming academic year call the CIFE Helpline on

0181 969 0324

A Level and GCSE Easter Revision

- Specialist groups for Medicine & Dentistry
- Board Specific courses
- Over 50 years experience

Duff MILLER
For further information telephone
0171 225 0577

EASTER AND SPRING A-LEVEL & GCSE REVISION

Daily and Residential Courses

BISHOPS STORTFORD, Herts
ROCKMANESWORTH, Herts
ST. ALBANS, Herts
MILL HILL, NW London
CHEAM, Surrey
TONBRIDGE, Kent
ASCOT, Berkshire
HARROGATE, N. Yorks
YORK, N. Yorks

Revises Key Topics & Modules with Essay & Exam Techniques in friendly informal lessons.

01727 827000
For a FREE DESKTOP REVISION PLANNER and BROCHURE call JUSTIN CRAIG EDUCATION
See our web site <http://www.justinicraig.ac.uk>

Unlocking Potential

Easter Revision
A Level (Modular & Non-Modular)
GCSE & AS Level

Ashbourne Independent Sixth Form College
17 Old Court Place, London W8 4PL
Tel: 0171-837 3858 Fax: 0171-837 2207
e-mail: ashbourne@online.rednet.co.uk

GRADE EXPECTATIONS

EASTER REVISION at
BRISTOL'S CLIFTON COLLEGE
March 28th to April 9th 1999

- The full range of GCSE and A level subjects
- Tutors with experience as examiners
- Individual assessments and small classes
- Exam practice & coaching on techniques
- Day / Residential
- Superb facilities at this top school
- End of course report for parents
- Advice on final preparations

CEIAC College, Bristol
Tel: 0117 974 5377, Fax: 0117 923 9397

EASTER REVISION at CATS

With examinations fast approaching, an intensive programme of revision and exam preparation, in small groups, helps students succeed at GCSE and A-Level.

For further information please contact:
01223 314431
or visit our web site
www.catscollege.co.uk
CATS Round Church Street Cambridge CB5 8AD
E-mail: cats@cat.papev.com



Oxford Easter Courses
Independent, non profit-making
A LEVEL REVISION
COURSES
at St. Hilda's College
172nd Year. Almost any syllabus
One OR two subjects per course
Tel: (01865) 311517 (24 hrs)
e-mail: oxford@st-hilda.ox.ac.uk
<http://st-hilda.ox.ac.uk>



Surrey College
TAKING 'A'
LEVELS OR GCSE'S
EASTER REVISION
COURSES
at Surrey College can help
you get those high grades.
(01483) 666887
1000 Home, Guildford Road
Guildford GU1 2AA



International
Language Schools
LANGUAGE COURSES ABROAD
French • German • Spanish • Italian • Russian
✓ 2 to 32 week courses starting every week
✓ Easter and Summer revision courses
✓ Courses suitable for all ages and levels
Call now for a brochure:
0171 878 3550



EASTER COURSES
AT
HERTFORD COLLEGE
OXFORD
A-LEVEL & GCSE
Cherwell College's long established Easter
Course. Intensive tuition in a demanding yet
stimulating and friendly environment
Tel: 01865-242670 Fax: 01865-791761



Oxford
SCIENCE STUDIES
A-LEVEL & GCSE
EASTER REVISION COURSES
at
LADY MARGARET HALL, OXFORD
• Oxford's only Science & Maths Specialists
• 91% pass rate • Guaranteed A-C grade achieved
• Exam by famous Oxford University academics
FREEPHONE 0800 399 6935 24 HOURS/7 DAYS

COURSES

GET PAID FOR READING BOOKS

It's true! You can earn up to £500 a week as a Freelance Proofreader and Copy Editor. No experience needed. Unique home-study course reveals all you need to know. For a FREE special report and details of how to claim your FREE trial report visit www.maplepublishing.com (Dept PR4), FREEPOST HA4444, Southall Middlesex, UB8 3BL. Or call free 0800-542-9868 (Quote Ref PR4)

WANTED KEEN READERS

(Spot our errors!)

Would you like to earn £3 to £15 an hour part or full-time working from home reading books for publishers and other organizations? Many freelance proofreaders and editors have been trained by Computerhouse over the past several years. Read some of their comments in our Prospectus.

People with no previous experience, but a keen interest in books, have established their own business with our help in technique and marketing.

Not everyone can be successful, but with applications this could be the career you have been looking for.

You need enthusiasm and a sharp eye. Your age and background is irrelevant. Send this advertisement marking off the relevant you can find (or telephone us). We will send a FREE PROSPECTUS of our correspondence and seminar training courses without obligation.

CHARTERHOUSE, 9 Southway West, Dover, EX1 5SL
Telephone: 01322 459498 Fax: 01322 459506

INDIVIDUAL TUTORING

AT
EDWARD GREENE'S
Oxford's oldest
tutorial establishment
For a prospectus call:
01865 248328
45 Parkside Street,
Oxford, OX1 1BP.
<http://www.edwardgreenes.co.uk>

Work in MEDIA & DESIGN!

9 month intensive course for a great career in Marketing, Advertising, PR & Media

- Latest graphics technology
- Live Ad agency case studies
- Practical work placement

Prospectus: (01865) 240963
SLADES College
One Pine Street OX1 1BS
<http://www.slades.co.uk>

Learn French fast

Intensive French Classes - Starting now

For a free brochure call
0171 723 7471

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
Officially recognized by the French Government
Registered charity no. 216602

Alliance Française de Londres | Dorset Square, London NW1 6PU
E-mail: info@alliancefrancaise-londres.org.uk

Part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Law (CPE)

Distance Learning in collaboration with The Law Group, Middlesex University.

The first CPE course to be supported on the internet: visit the website - www.spr-law.com

SEMPE PIGGOT ROCHEZ

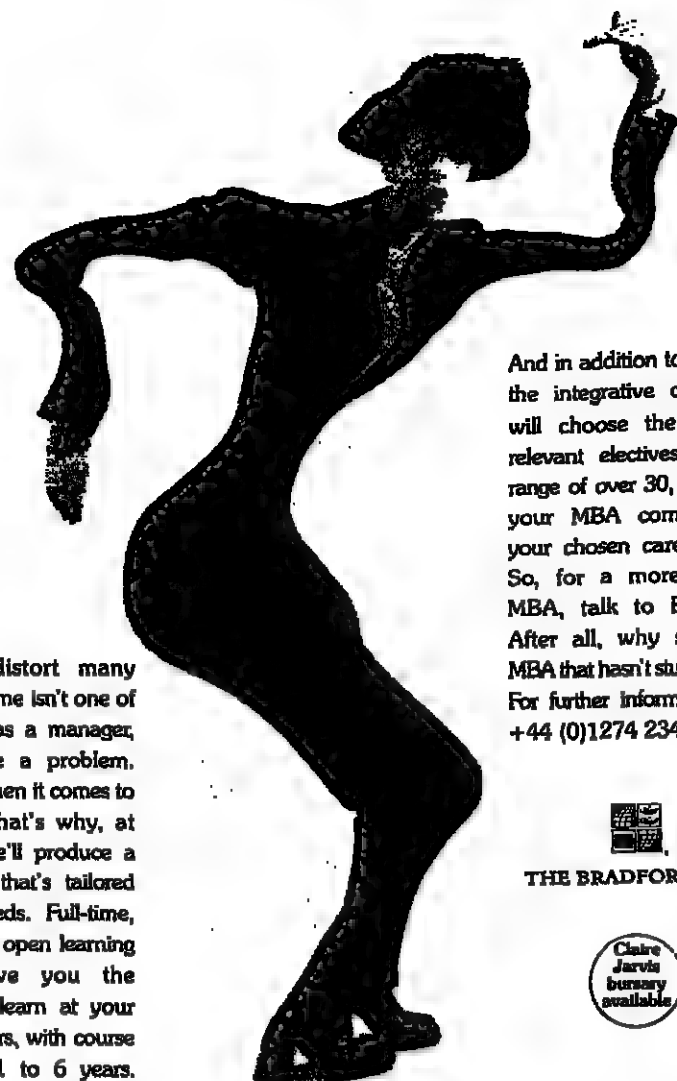
SEMPE PIGGOT ROCHEZ Ltd.
66 Bankbury Road
Oxford OX2 6PR
United Kingdom

Jane O'Hare (Course Director)
Tel: +44 (0)1865 277 805

Anne White (Registrar)
Tel: +44 (0)1865 310 310

BUSINESS COURSES

THE BRADFORD MBA



You can distort many things, but time isn't one of them. And as a manager, that can be a problem. Especially when it comes to studying. That's why, at Bradford, we'll produce a programme that's tailored to your needs. Full-time, evening and open learning options give you the freedom to learn at your pace, not ours, with course lengths of 1 to 6 years.

And in addition to studying the integrative core, you will choose the 6 most relevant electives from a range of over 30, to ensure your MBA complements your chosen career path. So, for a more flexible MBA, talk to Bradford. After all, why study an MBA that hasn't studied you? For further information call +44 (0)1274 234372/3/4.

THE BRADFORD MBA



IT'S FLEXIBLE,
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE

The University of Bradford Management Centre, Emm Lane, Bradford BD9 4JL, West Yorkshire, UK.
Fax: +44 (0)1274 232311. email: mbs@bradford.ac.uk <http://www.brad.ac.uk/acad/mbs/mc/>

POSTS



Dean of Business Administration
and
Chair for the Liberal Arts Departments

The American International University in London is looking for educators who desire to break away from the traditional approach to education and who can provide creativity and leadership in an environment of high accountability and rapid growth. The University is regionally accredited by SACs as a Level III university offering global, career-focused education in high-growth areas.

Qualifications include: Experience with curriculum design; faculty staffing, development and evaluation; student advising and registration. Ph.D. required for the Program Chair for Liberal Arts and desirable for the Dean of Business Administration. Offers will include a competitive benefits and compensation package.

We thank all applicants for their interest but will only contact those being considered. Please fax resume/curriculum vitae to Rufael A. Lago at 0171-935-8465 or mail to 110 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 3DB.

American International University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, at Level III to award associate, baccalaureate, and master degrees.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Personnel Operations and
Employee Relations Manager
To £40,000

This senior permanent position offers a wide ranging and influential role across the whole University at a time of major change and challenge. The University is a world class centre of excellence in research and teaching. The environment is extremely stimulating and diverse, spanning the full spectrum of academic disciplines in the arts, sciences, social sciences and medicine, as well as all supporting services. Annual turnover is over £300m. Income from external research contracts exceeds £110m per annum. More than 15 spin-off companies have been created, including a number with highly successful market capitalisation.

You will be directly responsible for the conduct of corporate level employee relations concerning all 7,100 university staff and you will manage the team of Personnel Officers, each of whom provide professional advice and assistance to a sector of the University. Operational responsibility for many personnel matters is devolved to each employing department and faculty of the University, and the central Personnel Services function concentrates upon the more demanding and complex operational issues, as well as being responsible for employee relations and the development of personnel policies for the University.

To succeed in this post you must have extensive experience of, and a record of achievement in, the conduct of corporate level employee relations in a large and complex organisation in either the private or public sector; a thorough knowledge of employment law and good practice; wide experience of advising managers on the full range of staffing issues; proven skills of innovation, problem solving, and policy development; and the ability to manage a team of professional staff.

Further particulars are available from Mrs S Hornblow at the address below (tel: 01865 270003; voice mail 280479) or from <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/sp>.

Applications in the form of a curriculum vitae and a covering letter showing how you meet the selection criteria set out in the further particulars should be sent to Dr D C Owen, FRD, Director of Personnel Services, University Offices, University of Oxford, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD to arrive by 3rd March 1999. Applications should include the names and addresses of two persons to whom reference may be made, at least one of whom should be a formal line manager at the most recent employer.

The University is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

HARROW SCHOOL and ROEDEAN SCHOOL

EASTER REVISION
COURSES
A Level, GCSE & EFL
Boys & Girls
Residential & Day

For further details contact:
The Bursary, Harrow & Roedean Revision Courses
The Bursary, Harrow School,
Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex HA1 2SP.
Telephone: 0181 426 4638
Fax: 0181 864 7180
E-mail: revision@harrow-school.org.uk
Discount for early applications
Harrow School is a registered charity no. 310033

EASTER REVISION COURSES

0171 727 2797

Wide range of A Level & GCSE
courses designed to improve exam
and revision technique

Also interviewing now for
SIXTH FORM ENTRY 1999

10 Pembridge Square London W2 4ED
Fax: 0171 792 0730
email: dld@dircon.co.uk

THE TIMES
EDUCATION

Do five terms beat three?

Changing the school year would improve study but disrupt families.

Jon Ashworth investigates

Within the next few days, East Sussex County Council will step up consultations on whether to introduce a five-term year into its schools. Teachers, parents and governors are being lobbied on what is fast becoming a hot topic for debate in staffrooms.

The proposals envisage a four-week summer break, with eight-week terms separated by 14-day holidays. Reaction so far is said to be mixed, with no clear consensus one way or the other. The East Sussex Education Committee will announce its decision in June.

Making a break, a new report from the Funding Agency for Schools, has added to the debate by suggesting that children in the five-term system learn more effectively, are less disruptive and are less inclined to tiredness.

In America, about 3,000 schools, with two million students, already work to an alternative calendar. Supporters of the system, known as year-round education, argue that spreading learning more evenly throughout the year helps to avoid "learning loss" during the long summer holiday.

The British report found that students, teachers and parents were attracted by the prospect of regular breaks, with the opportunity to take holidays outside the peak times.

Drawbacks include having children in different school systems, increased problems with finding childcare and difficulties in taking time off work to coincide with school holidays. Children did not like the idea of being off at a different time from their friends, and teachers said they would find it difficult to meet colleagues who worked in traditional systems.



Holiday chaos: a five-term year would mean more breaks at off-peak times, but could cause problems if it was not adopted by every school

The UK's 15 city technology colleges already work to a five-term year. Bradford, Bristol and Thurrock are consulting parents and teachers, as are the London boroughs of Newham and Croydon.

Opinion among teachers is mixed. Peter Barton, Headmaster of the Causeway School, a secondary in Eastbourne, East Sussex, says: "The three-term year is wasteful. The autumn term is generally agreed to be too long; often standards of learning drop. And the long summer break seems to allow many students to unlearn much of the previous year's work."

Duncan Baxter, Headmaster of Kingston Grammar School in southwest London, sees benefits in dividing the year into more neatly packaged units. "Teachers and

pupils will be less tired at the end of term," he says. "Regular assessments will check progress throughout the year and syllabuses can be divided into manageable chunks. Pupils will not forget all that they have learnt in the previous term by the time they begin the next one."

Mr Baxter also sees disadvantages. "There would be an increase in the number of parents taking their children out of school early at the end of term — or returning late at the beginning of term — for family holidays," he says.

Parents, too, have mixed views of the system. Terry Forrest, a biochemist from Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, has two sons of school age. He believes that working mothers in particular will run into difficulties because their established

working patterns will be disrupted. But his wife Susan, a housewife, is in favour of five terms. "Children, especially younger ones, get very tired as the term progresses, and working parents wouldn't have the problem of great chunks of childcare for six weeks at a time," she claims. "Most of my friends who work dread the summer holidays. You have the two-week family holiday in France, and what do you do with the rest of the time?"

Jeff Bacall, a 46-year-old company director, and his wife Shelley, have two boys at school in Barnet, Hertfordshire. "The current arrangements fit very comfortably with the university transition," says Mr Bacall. "Also, if the change was not

universal, you could have a son doing five terms and a daughter doing three."

Another parent, Dominic Riley, 40, an airline pilot, thinks that four terms would work well, but questions the merit of five. "I don't see what five terms would do," he says. "Children spend a week settling down after the holidays and a week getting excited about breaking up, and this is disruptive." Teaching unions are strongly opposed, pointing out that reducing the summer holiday, a big attraction of teaching, would deter potential recruits to the profession.

If the new system does go ahead, state schools would follow their local authorities while independent schools would make their own decisions.

Lessons in the great outdoors

The visionaries who framed the 1944 Education Act had no doubt about the value of outdoor education. The legislation proclaimed: "A period of residence in a school camp... in the country would contribute substantially to the health and width of outlook of any child from a town school." For all of the emphasis on Preparation for Adult Life in the current curriculum review, however, it will be surprising if the subject rates more than a postscript in the final report.

Schools and local authorities can no longer afford to provide the residential experience that became commonplace in the postwar era. If children are given such an opportunity at all, the financial burden falls on parents, many of whom can afford it even less. Fashions have changed in education, of course, in almost half a century. But plenty of good judges still believe that the residential experience — preferably linked to outdoor pursuits — carries benefits that should not be lightly abandoned. Teachers and employers alike recognise the growth in personal responsibility and resourcefulness that even a short course can foster.

For inner-city children in particular, many of whom have never spent time in the country or been away from home alone, the change is often striking. But with the number of outdoor centres run by local authorities dropping from more than 250 to about 100 in the past three years, their chances of being offered a place are shrinking fast. Some of

the supporters of outdoor education met in Bristol this week at an RSA-sponsored conference to consider how the decline could be arrested. Sir Michael Hobbs, the director of the Outward Bound Trust, admitted that youthful apathy, parental concerns over safety and schools' fear of litigation in the event of mishaps all added to the financial problems.

Yet the demand for adventure is not dead. Partly because of the lack of local authority centres, Outward Bound's numbers are up by a third this year. Expedition organisers such as World

Challenge also find interest as strong as ever. But there must be a suspicion that those who would benefit most are the least likely to be given the opportunity.

Schemes such as Birmingham's, which guarantees a residential course for every primary school child, or North Lanarkshire's, which gives 1,000 children a taste of Outward Bound, show what can be done. Almost 50 firms have contributed £10,000 to meet half the costs of the North Lanarkshire scheme, believing that they will reap rewards later in the form of more rounded employees.

A report published last year by the Secondary Heads Association indicated that there is plenty going on at school level as well. A little official encouragement would help. The curriculum is crowded enough without adding to the pressure on classroom time, but the entitlement to even a short residential course would help to preserve a valuable and endangered part of the education service.



John O'Leary

Director of Enrollment

The American InterContinental University is looking for a Director of Enrollment for Europe to provide leadership and creativity in an environment of high accountability and rapid growth.

Qualifications include: At least five years of experience in European marketing and being an overseas representative to American institution(s). Experience on the American higher educational system. Demonstrated ability to successfully market American academic programs in Europe. Experience in brochure publications and advertisements. Master degrees preferable. Offers will include competitive benefits and compensation package. We thank all applicants for their interest but will only contact those being considered. Please fax curriculum vitae to Rafael Iago 0171 935-8465 or mail it to 110 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 3DB.

THE ALICE OTTLEY SCHOOL

WORCESTER
(An Independent Girls' Day School)

HEAD

Following the retirement of Miss C. Sibbit, M.A. who has held the post since 1986, The School Council invites applications for the post of Head to commence in September 1999 or January 2000

Particulars of the appointment, together with an application form, may be obtained from the Secretary to the School Council, The Alice Ottley School, Upper Tything, Worcester, WR1 1HW (Telephone: 01905-21394 Fax: 01905-26564). Closing date for completed application forms is Monday 8th March 1999.

Royal Alexandra & Albert School

Getton Park, Reigate, Surrey

Founded in 1758, this is now a voluntary aided school, mainly boarding, for some 550 pupils. We seek for 1st September 1999 a:

Foundation Secretary

who will be the Principal Officer of the major charity which supports the school, as well as carrying out normal duties of Bursar. The Secretary is responsible for the financial affairs of the foundation and for the management and maintenance of a large landscaped estate.

Attractive conditions of service include salary and allowances, pension and accommodation on the estate. For details contact Jean Bryer at Gabbittas Educational Consultants, Canington House, 128-130 Regent Street, London W1R 5EE. Tel. 0171 734 0161. Fax: 0171 437 1764 E-mail: recon@gabbittas.co.uk Closing date for receipt of applications is 12th March 1999.

GABBITTAS

BRASENOSE COLLEGE
OXFORDTutorial Fellowship
in Modern History

Applications are invited for the above post to commence on 1st October 1999, or as soon as possible thereafter. The appointment is for a period of three years in conjunction with a University Lectureship (CLF). The combined college and university salary will be according to age on a scale up to £37,113 per annum. Additional College allowances are available. The successful applicant will be required to make a major contribution to teaching in the field of later modern British History, with a clear commitment to teaching American History.

Further particulars may be obtained from the College Secretary (tel. 01865 278822; fax 01865 278822; email: college.office@brasenose.oxford.ac.uk). Applications should be sent to the Senior Tutor, Brasenose College, Oxford OX1 4AJ, with details of career and publications and the names and addresses of three referees not later than 12th March 1999. Applicants should ask their referees to write to the Senior Tutor by the same date, without request from the College.

Brasenose College is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

1919-1999 • 1919-1999 • 1919-1999 • 1919-1999
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED
CHIROPODY

AS A REDUNDANCY PROOF PROFESSION

The demand for chiropody is ever increasing. Most of the training can be studied at home without leaving your job, with practical training in your holidays.

- We have continuously trained for 80 years (1919).
- Membership of the largest professional body THE BRITISH CHIROPODY & PODIATRY ASSOC.
- Grants? You may be eligible for a grant.

Write for a FREE prospectus to:
THE OPEN COLLEGE OF CHIROPODY & PODIATRY
149 North Road, Hildenwood, S.A. 4JA
Tel: (01628) 621100 (Days) Fax: 674453
Email: info@opencollege.co.uk
http://www.opencollege.co.uk/homepage/SALES_INSTITUTE

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____
POSTCODE: _____

**The University of Chicago
Graduate School of Business**
International Executive MBA Program at Barcelona
Advance your career while you work by earning a world-renowned MBA degree.

- Taught by the distinguished Chicago business school faculty, a group that has earned more Nobel Prizes for business innovations than any other business school.
- With an elite group of international managers with an average of 10 years experience. More than 38 countries are represented in our most recent class.
- In 14 weeks spread over 18 months.



Join us at our information sessions in:

London - Monday Feb. 22 at 19.30
Millennium Britannia Hotel
Grosvenor Square

Madrid - Tuesday Feb. 23 at 19.30
Palacio de Argemaria
Paseo de Recoletos, 10

To confirm your attendance, please contact us at:
barcelona.inquiries@gsb.uchicago.edu

The University of Chicago, Arago 271, 08007 Barcelona, Spain
Telephone: +34 93 488 33 80 Fax +34 93 488 34 66
For further information visit our website <http://gsbwww.uchicago.edu>

Brussels - Wednesday Feb. 24 at 19.30
Bedford Hotel
Rue de Midi 135

Frankfurt - Thursday Feb. 25 at 19.30
Intercontinental und Forum Hotel
Wilhelm Lauschner - Strasse 43

Only one medical school
offers a world of opportunities.

At St. George's University School of Medicine, students begin basic science training in Grenada and St. Vincent, and go on to study in hospitals in the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Caribbean. Our curriculum, taught in English, by a dedicated international 600-member faculty, combines high tech diagnostic technique with training emphasizing family history taking and personal patient interview. The successful integration of the best of the world's thinking is reflected in St. George's 93% pass rate for all first time takers in the June 1998 USMLE Step 1. Contact us in English at:

St. George's University School of Medicine
c/o The North American Correspondent:
Medical School Services, Ltd.,
One East Main Street, Dept AUK8
Bay Shore, NY 11706-8339, USA.
1-516-665-8500 Fax: 1-516-665-5590
Email: sgu_info@sgu.edu
Website: www.sgu.edu

**St. George's
University**
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Grenada and St. Vincent, West Indies

**HARVARD
Summer School**
June 28-August 20, 1999

Arts & Sciences Courses
English Language Programs
High School Program
Ukrainian Studies

Live and learn with students from around the world while exploring Harvard University.

FOR ENROLLMENT: 617-495-5000
INFORMATION: 617-495-4024
WEB: summer.dce.harvard.edu
EMAIL: summer@busch.harvard.edu

HARVARD SUMMER SCHOOL
DEPT. S353, 51 BRATTLE STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138 USA
summer.dce.harvard.edu

Christopher Irvine on a rugby league coach preaching good practice

Old habits die hard for Hanley

The sign on the door summed up the man: "I never blame failure, but I am absolutely merciless towards lack of preparation and lack of effort." You can imagine any slacker wringing their hands like schoolboys caught smoking and awaiting punishment outside the headmaster's office. Ellery Hanley will tolerate nothing less from his St Helens players than the consummate professionalism, dedication and wholehearted endeavour that characterised a nonpareil playing career.

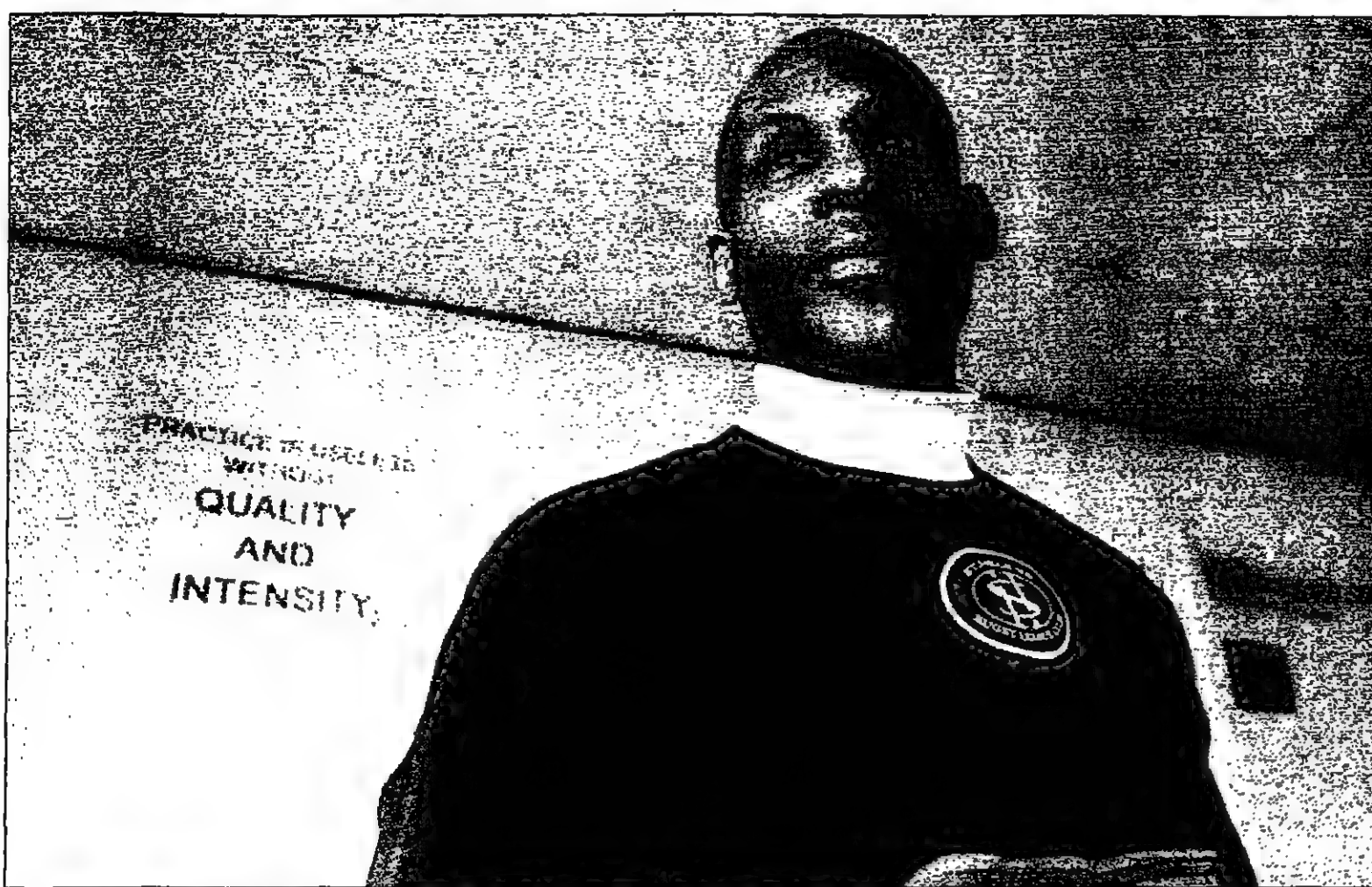
There are two computers and a laptop in his office, which overlooks the rooftops of St Helens, where public expectations of him are enormous at the start of a new season. Although a latecomer to new technology, Hanley has mastered it like everything else, by unflinching practice. "Missed tackles, tackles. They are all counted and logged," he said.

"There's no hiding place any more. I see everything." What persuaded Hanley, after a three-year exile in Australia, to give up a good life in Sydney for the slightly ramshackle Knowsley Road is the competitive instinct that burns as brightly as ever within him.

The best deals in rugby league are usually done on the M62. Hanley was home for a few weeks on business. Sitting in a service station on the motorway, he listened to the offer put to him by St Helens and thought hard about an opportunity that was too good to miss. At 37, his playing days were over; this was the next best thing, or so he imagined.

"I get the same satisfaction coaching as I did playing," he said. "Once you leave the football field because your desire has gone, all that returns with coaching. It's something I look forward to every single day. When I go on to the paddock and we're setting up plays and players are executing them well, that's pure job satisfaction."

On his arrival last November, he issued the players with notebooks. That way they cannot be excused for forgetting his instructions. Punctuality was addressed; Hanley is a stickler for timekeeping. Everyone must be willing to make sacrifices. "I'm fortunate to be in charge of a very good side with massive potential, but that



Sign of things to come: Hanley is determined that his message will get through to the players at Knowsley Road. Photograph: Andrew Varley

will only be realised if they listen and obey all commands," he said.

Utterly inscrutable, yet engagingly perceptive and persuasive while never giving too much away — that is Hanley. He spoke recently to a Prince's Trust meeting about motivation and self-confidence and the youngsters were bowled over. No wonder players put their bodies on the line for him.

Rugby league's gain was preaching's loss. He answers questions with sermons. For someone who let his talent do the talking for much of his career, he is a natural interviewer. Why was he willing to stake his reputation? "I'm not. You talk about reputation. Character is what counts for me. That's what a person is about. Reputation is merely what others think of you."

What emotions do you undergo on match day? "None. My coaching stops after the

last training session. If a player is going to be a champion, always prepare for the unexpected. That's what I hope they've logged." Dead-bat without blather. Hanley could teach certain people a trick or two.

Another of his home-made signs talks of practice being useless without quality and

under Shaun McRae. "People say you're under tremendous pressure because Shaun McRae did this and that, but the past doesn't matter," Hanley said. "All that does is the next game. Pressure is something you bring on yourself. I don't feel it."

"It's down not only to the personnel but their attitude,

standing individual talent. He talks, though, not in personalities, but purely about teamwork. He took a pre-season defeat by Warrington Wolves badly. "If you go to any ground, don't think the opposition will lie down. Wear your heart outside your sleeve every time. We were out-enthusiased and lost the small battles at

fickle and the club has suffered its share of traumas off the field in the past year, but the place is buzzing again. Hanley, more commonly associated as the destroyer of St Helens in a Wigan shirt in the Eighties, will have made it in supporters' eyes when he can turn over his old employers on a regular basis.

On leaving, I reminded him of his most significant coaching achievement so far — Great Britain's 8-4 defeat of Australia at Wembley in 1994, memorable for its incredible defiance with 12 players after the early dismissal of Shaun Edwards. He stared back as if to say: "What on earth has ancient history to do with now?"

At South Leeds Stadium on Sunday, if Hanley cannot put out 13 players blessed with his skills, he can field 13 prepared to give the level of commitment for which he was famous. He does not expect to be let down.

Warrington, which was disappointing," he said.

"I was fortunate to be with some fantastic individuals, who complemented my play, particularly at Wigan and Leeds, where players gelled at particular times. They were great teams."

The traditional St Helens rugby league public can be

'Missed tackles. They are all counted and logged. There's no hiding place any more'

intensity. He could have added passion. "I think we're on this planet for a short period of time," he said. "I'd hate to think I'd left and hadn't given my maximum."

Judgment begins on Sunday, away to Hunslet Hawks in the fourth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, which St Helens won in 1996 and 1997

will to win and mental toughness. My goal, week by week, is to be able to look up at the scoreboard and see we've outscored the opposition. Another is to finish with the best defensive record."

In Paul Newlove, Anthony Sullivan, Kevin Iro, Sean Long, Paul Sculthorpe and Chris Joynt, Hanley has out-

SNOOKER

Williams finally meets his match

By Phil Yates

THE three-month, 16-match unbeaten run enjoyed by Mark Williams — and his reign as Benson and Hedges Masters champion — came to an unexpected end yesterday. Williams lost 6-4 in the quarter-finals to Alan McManus, an opponent who was often on the receiving end during Williams' all-conquering spell, in which he won the Irish Open, helped Wales to lift the Nations Cup and captured the Welsh Open title.

"That was a big hurdle after what Mark has done to me lately," McManus, who had lost to Williams on three occasions this season, said. He now faces either Ronnie O'Sullivan or Ken Doherty.

Williams, who defeated McManus 5-1 at the German Masters, 9-4 in the final of the Irish Open and inflicted only the second whitewash in the Scot's nine years as a professional on the way to prevailing at the Welsh Open, made a sluggish start, whereas McManus was immediately into the groove with a break of 83 in the first frame.

He established a 5-1 lead, but Williams, who rallied from 9-6 adrift to edge out Stephen Hendry 10-9 on a re-spotted black in a memorable climax to the Masters last year, fought tigerishly. Runs of 52 and 63 enabled him to recover to 3-5 before McManus squandered an opportunity to wrap up proceedings in the ninth frame when he missed a red from short range.

Williams then embarked on an exceptional 58 clearance, which included a fearless pink using the rest, to steal the frame on the black. The tenth frame, a tense business lasting 38 minutes, was determined when McManus rolled the pink to a balk pocket from distance and, equally importantly, judged position on the black to perfection. "I am very relieved, I thought it had slipped away," he admitted.

Williams had no complaints. "I've had a great time of it lately and I always knew the run would come to an end. I wasn't going to lie down like a baby, but, overall, Alan deserved it," he said.

ATHLETICS

Smith opts to give grand prix a miss

By David Powell
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

STEVE SMITH, the Great Britain men's athletics team captain at the European championships last year, found himself singing from the same hymn sheet as Michael Johnson yesterday, though it sounded more like Abba than Songs of Praise. Money, Money, Money was the theme.

Smith launched an attack on the new paymasters of British athletics, Fast Track. Instead of competing in the BUPA indoor grand prix at Birmingham on Sunday, he will be high-jumping in Germany. The financial offer to him for Birmingham was too little, too late, he said. "I felt I was more wanted in Germany than I was in Britain, which is sad," Smith said.

Vicente Modahl, Smith's manager, said that he had tried to strike a deal in December, but Ian Stewart, the promoter, had not responded. When he did, Modahl said, the offer was less than the one from Germany, to which they had already committed.

Jon Ridgeon, for Fast Track, said: "We are going the same way as other sports, where the emphasis is on prize-money rather than appearance fees. No other British athlete wants to be anywhere else except at our meeting on Sunday."

While Smith against Javier Sotomayor, the world record-holder, would have been an interesting sideshow, Johnson's stance is more serious for Fast Track. After Ivan Thomas's all-conquering summer, there is one head-to-head above all others that will steal tickets this year: Thomas v Johnson.

However, Brad Hunt, Johnson's manager, said that the athlete would not compete in Britain until "obligations of the past have been addressed". By that, he meant the \$100,000-plus that the Olympic champion is owed from his appearance at Crystal Palace in 1997.

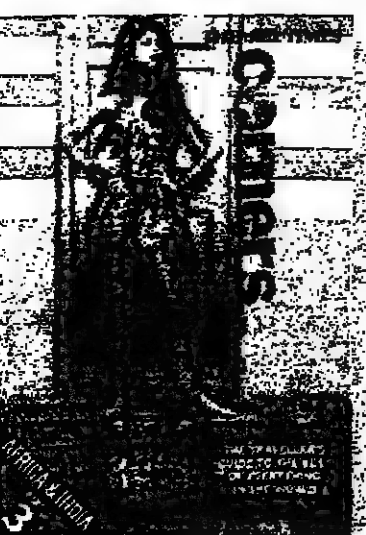
The collapse of the British Athletic Federation 16 months ago left many athletes unpaid. Hunt argues that UK Athletics, the new governing body, should pay for the sins of its father.

30p

THE TIMES



BE A TRAVELLER, NOT A TOURIST.



Four Corners.
The four part travel guide
to the places tourists don't go to
Collect part two,
free in The Times this Saturday.



<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 43 - Rebids on minimum hands

I touched on the subject of opener's rebids in Lesson 34 - Opening One of a Suit, when I stressed the importance of planning your rebid before opening the bidding. Over the next few weeks I am going to look at this subject in some detail.

If you have a minimum (12-14 HCP) balanced hand (remember: no void, no singleton and not more than one doubleton) you open One No-Trump without a planned rebid. Whether you actually make a rebid or not depends upon partner's first response (see Lesson 31).

When you open One of a Suit, you should have planned your intended rebid but must still take into account your partner's first response. Partner assumes your One of a Suit opening shows your hand is unbalanced, but if your rebid is in no-trumps he will adjust to your (now) balanced hand in his second response.

It is vital to recognise that when the opening bid is One of a Suit the bidding dialogue works progressively:

Opening bid: One Heart (I have at least four hearts and enough HCP to open the bidding).

First response: One Spade (I have at least four spades and 6+HCP).

Rebid: Two Diamonds (My hand is unbalanced, at least five hearts and four diamonds, I have less than 19 HCP or I would have jumped to Three Diamonds).

Second response: Four Hearts (My three-card heart suit fits well with your five, and I have 12 HCP so I feel we should be in game).

This typical dialogue demonstrates how the opening One of a Suit and the first response of a simple change of suit does not quantify either the shape or HCP of either hand, but the rebid and second response set boundaries for both the shape and value of the joint holdings.

Here are some straightforward examples. You open One Heart and partner responds One Spade: what do you rebid?

(A) ♠ 65 (B) ♠ K764 (C) ♠ A3
♥ AQ7653 ♥ AJ765 ♥ 87
♦ A43 ♦ A5 ♦ AQ654
♣ Q6 ♣ 74 ♣ K1076

With Hand (A) you simply rebid your main suit, Two Hearts. With Hand (B) you have good support for partner which he will be pleased to hear about — rebid Two Spades. Both these two rebids are limit bids — they tell your partner immediately that you have a minimum hand. With Hand (C) you rebid your second suit — Two Clubs. This is not a limit bid in the same way as the previous two examples. Here you could have up to about 18 HCP for such a bid. Two Clubs is not forcing, but partner should not pass unless he has a very poor hand.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HOMRAI

- a. Pistachio nut dip
- b. Samurai code of honour
- c. A hornbill

NASSA

- a. A word puzzle
- b. An Egyptian donkey
- c. A basket shell

HAIKAL

- a. An interpreter
- b. A chapel
- c. An African vulture

NOMIC

- a. Terse
- b. Routine
- c. Looking for a law

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Seventy-five years ago

1999 is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the great tournament at New York in 1924. Interestingly, this was also won by Emanuel Lasker, a quarter of a century after his triumph at London 1899, which I covered yesterday.

Professor Nathan Divinsky, the chess statistician, has also compiled some figures for leading players playing with white against only elite opponents. From these, Lasker also emerges with immense credit, particularly given the fact that Morphy played far fewer games against top flight opposition than did Lasker.

The leading percentages with White are as follows: Morphy 88.5; Lasker 71.5; Kasparov 70.7; Karpov 67.3; Capablanca 67.1; Kramnik 66.4; Anand 66.1; Charousek 66.07; Alekhine 65.7; Ivanchuk 64.8; Rubinstein 64.1; Fischer 64.1.

Today's game is a win by Lasker from New York 1924 against a coming world champion.

White: Alexander Alekhine
Black: Emanuel Lasker
New York 1924

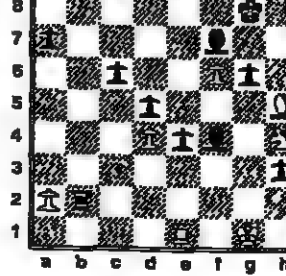
Queen's Gambit Declined

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 1 | c4 | d5 |
| 2 | c3 | e6 |
| 3 | Ng3 | Nf6 |
| 4 | Nc3 | Nbd7 |
| 5 | exd5 | exd5 |
| 6 | Bd4 | c6 |
| 7 | e3 | Nh5 |
| 8 | Bd3 | Nd4 |
| 9 | exd4 | Bd6 |
| 10 | g2 | O-O |
| 11 | O-O | Re8 |
| 12 | Qc2 | Nf5 |
| 13 | Nd1 | f6 |
| 14 | Ne3 | Be6 |
| 15 | Nf4 | Bc7 |
| 16 | b4 | Bb6 |

- | | | |
|----|-------|------|
| 17 | Nf3 | Bf7 |
| 18 | b5 | Bh5 |
| 19 | g4 | Rf7 |
| 20 | bxc6 | Rxc6 |
| 21 | Qd2 | Re5 |
| 22 | f5 | Qd6 |
| 23 | Ng2 | Bc7 |
| 24 | Rd1 | h5 |
| 25 | h3 | Nh7 |
| 26 | Rxb6+ | Rxb6 |
| 27 | Re1 | Rb8 |
| 28 | Qc1 | Ng5 |
| 29 | Nd5 | Re5 |
| 30 | Qd5 | Qd4 |
| 31 | f6 | g5 |
| 32 | f4 | Ng4 |
| 33 | Be2 | gxf3 |
| 34 | Bh5 | Rd2 |
| 35 | Nh4 | Qd4 |
| 36 | Qd4 | Bd4 |

White resigns

Diagram of final position

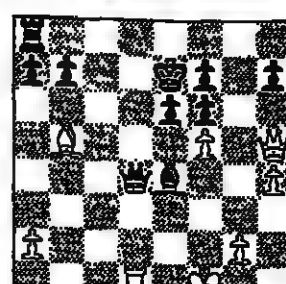


Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).



WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game between Nemet and Pelletier, which was played in Zurich last year. What was Black's winning continuation?

Solution on page 50

FOOTBALL

Wilkinson left to sift through cinders of defeat

By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

HOWARD WILKINSON might have arrived at Wembley on Wednesday night feeling like Cinderella, but an hour after international football had chewed him up and spat him out, he was wandering through the stadium looking like the wrong Buttons. His face was drained of colour when he walked into the room where the media waited for him.

"I'd like a brandy," he said as he sank into his chair. There was no brandy, so he settled for a cup of black coffee. "Just something warm," he said.

Suddenly, for the first time this week, he looked his 35 years. His jauntiness had gone, the grey hairs around his temples seemed to be more prominent. He had not lost his courtesy and he did not search for excuses, but he did look painfully aware of the scale of the problems that England face as the countdown to their European championship qualifying match against Poland next month gathers pace.

It took a side such as France to expose those problems, a side with Zinedine Zidane and Youri Djorkaeff dancing between England's back four and midfield, helping to outnumber Paul Ince and Jamie Redknapp and unsettling

Tony Adams and Martin Keown, who found themselves marking thin air — but it was England's failure to use possession when they finally got the ball back that worried Wilkinson most.

England do not have a Zidane or a Djorkaeff, any more. They do not have anybody to link midfield and attack. Paul Gascoigne will never be able to perform that far up the field again, even if he does make an improbable return to the national team in a more limited role. Teddy Sheringham is not even the first reserve for Manchester United and Paul Scholes is being used by Alex Ferguson more as an orthodox midfielder player.

This failing was cruelly exposed by the world champions in their 2-0 win. Too often, Alan Shearer and Michael Owen found themselves isolated in attack. Neither excels at dropping deep to feed the other, both search out the same ground. The space between them and the midfield lengthened as the game went on, until Redknapp and David Beckham were reduced to hitting relatively aimless long passes into the ether.

"That fact alone, about just giving the ball away as we did, cost us dearly," Wilkinson said. "I can see in my mind in

the first half a whole sequence of 15 or 20-yard passes where 99 times out of 100, the players concerned would say: 'I have got three choices here and, in the circumstances, the best choice is to play the first pass I see, nice and simple, get our shape back, keep the ball off them and then start to build from there.' But we just gave it away for fun.

"I don't know what the answer is at the moment. I didn't know at half-time, other than to say we can't go on like this. When they had the ball, we were defending, working hard, staying on our feet, staying with people, trying to keep our shape, staying patient, winning the ball back, thinking thank God, now let's... then, oh Christ, we've got to do it again. That was the pattern of the evening."

Identifying the problem is one thing, fixing it another. The conundrum that will face Wilkinson, or whoever succeeds him, against Poland is whether to persist with Shearer and Owen, England's best forwards, or sacrifice one for the sake of a better collective performance. To keep both and try to accommodate a link player would unbalance the side. Owen will probably be consigned to the substitutes' bench and Scholes would be the most likely choice to fill the link role.

If England are going to gamble, it would be wiser to do so on the left side of midfield, where Darren Anderton was so ineffectual. It would be better, surely, to allow Steve McNamara to attempt a reprise of his success on that flank during the 1996 European championship. Like Anderton, he is not left-footed, but, with his dribbling ability, he could still cause havoc.

With him and Scholes playing slightly ahead of a central midfield three that is likely to comprise Beckham, David Batty and Nicky Butt, England would at least be nearer to the alliance of silk and steel that France have already forged.



One for all: Djorkaeff, Anelka, Desailly and Petit are now all plying their trade away from their homeland of France. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Superior thinking destroys England

Rob Hughes on how a nation desperate to succeed was left disappointed by ideas above its station

Among the excuses for the discovery on Wednesday that England are two goals inferior to France — and two divisions below the country's self-estimation — is the belief that too many foreigners are imported, blocking the progress of English players. Ron Atkinson said as much during his television commentary, when he suggested that no other country imported as many and that the Bosman rule was sapping England of home-grown strengths. What are the facts, the fantasy and the fallacy behind that assumption?

At the start of this season, only four clubs — Manchester, Athletic Bilbao, Lazio and Venezia — among the 94 teams in Europe's five leading leagues had not imported players. England employed 118 overseas players out of the 262 considered to be automatic choices in the FA Carling Premiership (about 45 per cent). Germany had 98 out of 248 in its top flight (40 per cent), Spain 106 of 276 (38 per cent), Italy 74 among 248 (30 per cent) and France 48 from 243 (20 per cent).

These figures change week by week, but in Italy, where clubs such as AC Milan scaled back on youth schemes to invest in foreign stars, the imports have almost doubled in three years. The statistics are particularly acute in midfield, where overseas talents now outnumber Italians and where Dino Zoff, the national team coach, struggles to find players who, in the Italian phrase, "invent the game". Italy's clubs remain dominant in Europe, but the reasons are apt to be French. Zinedine Zidane, the world player of the year, bestrode Wembley with his liberated imagination, balance and touch. Youri Djorkaeff was his alert lieutenant and Didier Deschamps his runner.

All three earn a living in the land of the lire. Emmanuel Petit, the fourth musketeer of midfield, and Patrick Vieira, the first reserve, are the property of Arsenal. Arsène Wenger, their manager, sat in front of the royal box beside Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager.

"Football is strange," Petit said on Wednesday night. "Sometimes you play with, sometimes you play against. You have to be a chameleon." Chameleon or artist, the French noticed how England wilted in the second half and how this had to do with technique.

The greater your skill, the less you strain to keep up. Zidane was the master of all. Rather than a product of French coaching, his ability grew wild in the poorest district of Marseille and, rather than claim that coaching brought him through, those

men who had the young Zidane under their wing acknowledge that it was more a question of coaxing than coaching. He had the gifts; their task was to persuade a quiet man to express himself, to impose. They did their job well.

However, it was Juventus that taught him to hurt the opposition with guile and it is in Italy, as much as in England and Germany, where politicians are searching for an answer to the Treaty of Rome, which, after the Bosman judgment, opened the floodgates to foreign players in football. Walter Veltroni, Italy's Sports Minister, seeks to limit the impact by urging Italian clubs to field at least five Italians each game. For England, too, it may come to that. European law will not change, but clubs might be persuaded, for the good of the nation, to apply voluntary restriction. France has the problem in

reverse. The World Cup raised a previously cool French perception of football to fever pitch, but it also raised expectations. The great French players are mercenaries abroad, some of them in London. Marie-George Buffet, their Sports Minister, has prepared a Bill to dissuade managers such as Wenger from stealing players in embryo.

Wenger took Nicolas Anelka, a double goalscorer at Wembley, to Arsenal at 17 and has returned to pluck Jérôme Aladière, 16. Buffet seeks to tie youths to the club that fostered them for three years after apprenticeship, but she faces opposition from clubs that need the money.

England must adjust and the moronic spectators who reviled the *Marseille* on Wednesday need to learn that their abuse does nothing but stoke up the passion of visiting players. What France did, and what Hungary did in 1953, was to come to Wembley Stadium and teach England soundly that its notions of superiority are outmoded.



Wilkinson walks away from Wembley with much to ponder

30p

THE TIMES

Fast Bucks.

Create your own Formula 1 team for a TVR Cerbera, tickets to world-wide Grand Prix and cash prizes. NatWest Fantasy Formula One starting in the £100,000 prize pool in next Monday's Times.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

Phillips relishes Cup's taste of sweet and sour

Stephen Wood meets a player who won at Wembley and lost at Sutton

AT FIRST glance, it might appear that the players of Huddersfield Town have been more interested in darts this week than Derby County, their opponents tomorrow in the fifth round of the FA Cup. Indeed, David Phillips says that he has had to ignore challenges at the oche, for it is touch and go whether his back can stand the strain — "especially after holding all those pints of beer."

No matter, that the Nationwide League first division side are awaiting the visit of one of the better members of the FA Carling Premiership, a team bristling with internationals — tell-tale signs of pressure or nerves are hard to find. Beneath the humour and jokes, they are relishing the prospect at the McAlpine Stadium, and few more than Phillips, 35, Huddersfield's vastly experienced midfielder player. Years ago, he doubted that he would even be playing at his age.

"When I came into the game 17 years ago, you always thought your career would be over by 30," he said, "but when I was 30, I realised it wasn't like that any more and that I could go on, although it's more a case of brain against brawn as you get older."

"I wouldn't like to be like Michael Owen or David Beckham. Life is so intense for them. I've managed to surpass the goals that I have set myself and I know I'm lucky."

Phillips picks out the highlights: signing his first profes-

sional contract at Plymouth Argyle; making his first big move, to Manchester City; earning a first cap for his beloved Wales and, perhaps his most exciting achievement, being part of Coventry City's FA Cup Final win over Tottenham Hotspur in 1987.

"The whole experience was phenomenal," Phillips recalled. "We beat Manchester United on the way and then came back from two goals down to beat Leeds in the semi-final. That sort of thing doesn't happen very often."

"The club spoils us by taking us on a couple of trips to Spain and the spirit in the team was so good we had meetings in the sauna or by popping down the pub. On the day of the final, John Sillett [the Coventry joint-manager], told us just to enjoy ourselves."

More painful are Phillips's recollections of Coventry's third-round exit to Sutton United in 1989. "That was a bad weekend. My son watched the highlights on television and then said to me: 'Dad, Coventry are rubbish.' It is typical of John [Sillett] that on one side of the mannequin he has his Cup-winner's medal and on the other some Sutton seed. That sums up the highs and lows of football."

Phillips's own memorabilia are displayed around a bar at his home in Leamington Spa, where a Wales flag flies at the bottom of the garden. It was a Welsh connection that helped attract Phillips to Huddersfield, on a free transfer from Nottingham Forest, for he has great respect for Terry Yorath, the former Wales coach, who now assists Peter Jackson, the Huddersfield manager.

The FA Cup has often been good to Phillips, who is hoping to help Huddersfield to their first quarter-final for 27 years. He was in the Plymouth team that reached the semi-finals in 1984 — and they beat Derby during that run. "I shall go into tomorrow with that positive thought," he said. "Admittedly, it was 15 years ago and I don't suppose Paolo Wanchope will be too bothered by it. He's probably never even heard of Plymouth."

Phillips is proud to be Welsh



Arsenal hit hard for vital match

By GEORGE CAULKIN

INJURIES to Martin Keown, Lee Dixon and Tony Adams, all sustained during England's 2-0 defeat by France, are threatening to leave Arsenal with only a shadow team for the FA Carling Premiership match with Manchester United, the leaders, at Old Trafford next Wednesday, a game for which Emmanuel Petit and Dennis Bergkamp are suspended.

Keown's hamstring strain will keep him out for at least three weeks, while Dixon, who was concussed in a collision with Christophe Dugarry, is already ruled out of the FA Cup fifth-round tie with Sheffield United tomorrow. Adams has broken his nose.

"We could certainly have done without these problems," Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said yesterday. "It is always tough when you play Manchester United. Dixon will be touch-and-go."

Mark Hughes has been suspended for two matches, fined £2,000 and warned as to his future conduct by the Football Association after picking up his fourteenth yellow card in 24 games for Southampton this season. The Wales international, 35, has already served three suspensions and was hauled to Lancaster Gate late last year to explain his behaviour. "He clearly realises that he is going to be in very serious trouble if he receives another three cautions," an FA spokesman said.

Robert Lee, the Newcastle United and England midfielder, who has been attracting attention from Southampton, Leicester City and West Ham United, has admitted that his days at St James' Park may be numbered, despite signing a new three-year contract at the start of the season.

Vassilios Borbokis, Sheffield United's Greece international, held conciliatory talks with Steve Bruce, the United manager, yesterday after being placed on the transfer list for taking unauthorised leave. Borbokis returned to Greece without permission last week, claiming that he needed a "rest" to recover from injury.

GOLF: BALLESTEROS BLOWS HOT AND COLD ON DAY OF CONTRASTS

Garcia gets just deserts

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN DUBAI

GOLF is a game of such longevity that it constantly juxtaposes youthful promise and gnarled experience. That was the case when Nick Faldo and Justin Rose were competing in a tournament in Johannesburg last month. It was also the case yesterday with Severiano Ballesteros and Sergio Garcia in the first round of the Desert Classic at the Dubai Creek course.

A few years ago, if one Spaniard had scored 68 and the other 78, it would have been Ballesteros to whom you attributed the four-under-par score and Garcia the six-over. These days, Ballesteros, 41, is a professional who plays like an amateur; Garcia, 19, is the one who looks, talks and scores as well as a professional.

Garcia is a professional in all but name. He plays full-time and has all the trappings of one who earns his living from the game. He is the most exciting amateur in world golf since Tiger Woods. He won eight events last year, including the Amateur Championship, but will not defend his title in June. The only question is when he will turn professional and the informed betting is after the Masters, perhaps at the Spanish Open two weeks later.

There seems to be no reason to wait any longer. He has served his apprenticeship and, as he demonstrated in this, his second tournament of the year, having finished third behind two professionals in his first, he is good enough to compete against anyone.

His round was full of big hitting, deft work around the greens and it positively brimmed with youthful promise. The fairways here are very narrow and the rough very thick. Hit the ball into the rough and it is almost certainly a wasted stroke. Garcia missed only five fairways. He holed three putts of 8ft or less, one of 15ft and one of 25ft.

"Something tells me I'm going to come back," Garcia said in a gesture of loyalty to his countryman. "He probably will not be the player he was, but I'm sure he's going to win some tournaments."

On this evidence, though, Ballesteros has no chance of regaining his best form. He was wild off the tee and saved him-



Price, of Wales, plays from the 15th fairway as he moves to a share of the lead in Dubai

self only with a short game that remains magical, one of golf's wonders.

Never was this better demonstrated than on the 11th, where he hit the wildest drive I have seen a professional hit. It landed plumb in the middle of the 12th fairway, more than 100 yards from the middle of

his intended target. Yet his second shot floated over an enormous waste bunker and some palm trees to within 8ft of the hole. Sadly, he missed the putt after being the farthest from the green after the drives and the nearest to the flag after his second.

All in all, it was not a very

good day for former heroes. Nick Faldo had an inspired day on the greens, taking only 26 putts. This is just as well, because if he had been putting as badly as he was playing from tee to green, his total of 75, three over par, would have been much worse.

He is eight strokes behind Paul McInerney and Philip Price, the leaders, and has his work cut out to reach the last two rounds of this tournament, in which his aim is to finish in the top ten in order to climb up the world rankings.

The failure of the rig on *Gartmore* may be the result of damage caused during repeated crash-gybes on the second leg. Whatever the reason, the dismasting marks the end of a very disappointing race for Hall.

He completed the first leg two days off the pace but then, on the second leg, the problems came thick and fast. The rudder played up, there were problems with the main-sail and with the pilots and, by Auckland, Hall had slipped nearly a week behind the leader. His dismasting brings to an end British interest in Class 1 after Mike Golding ran aground in *Team Group 4* while on his way into Auckland.

In Class 2, Mike Garcia, in *Magellan Alpha*, is a long way behind the leader, JP Montigne, of France in *Cray Valley*. Robin Davis, his British counterpart, in *South Carolina*, retired yesterday after reaching Auckland two days after the other 11 skippers had set sail for Punta del Este.

SAILING

Gremlins leave luckless Hall defeated

BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Josh Hall set sail from Auckland in *Gartmore*, he hoped that his luck would turn after a disappointing first leg in the Around Alone Race and then an even worse second leg through the Southern Ocean. Instead, his campaign is effectively over after *Gartmore* was dismasted just four days into the third stage of the race.

Hall was lying in fourth and last place in Class 1, 120 miles behind Marc Thiercelin, in *Somewhere*, the leg leader, as the fleet headed south past the Chatham Islands and into the Southern Ocean at the start of the wild ride east towards Cape Horn. All appeared to be well until late on Wednesday, when the mast on *Gartmore* came crashing down in steep seas and at least 35 knots of wind.

Immediately before the dismasting, Hall, who is suffering from flu, had reported that his *Groupe Finot 60* was travelling at between 15-20 knots in building seas and a 30-knot southerly. After the trials of the second leg, when *Gartmore* crash-gybed at the mercy of defective compasses, Hall was optimistic that he had got his boat on track—but it was not to be.

The failure of the rig on *Gartmore* may be the result of damage caused during repeated crash-gybes on the second leg. Whatever the reason, the dismasting marks the end of a very disappointing race for Hall.

He completed the first leg two days off the pace but then, on the second leg, the problems came thick and fast. The rudder played up, there were problems with the main-sail and with the pilots and, by Auckland, Hall had slipped nearly a week behind the leader. His dismasting brings to an end British interest in Class 1 after Mike Golding ran aground in *Team Group 4* while on his way into Auckland.

In Class 2, Mike Garcia, in *Magellan Alpha*, is a long way behind the leader, JP Montigne, of France in *Cray Valley*. Robin Davis, his British counterpart, in *South Carolina*, retired yesterday after reaching Auckland two days after the other 11 skippers had set sail for Punta del Este.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46

HOMRAI

(c) A large black-and-white hornbill. *Buceros bicornis*, which is found from India to Sumatra. The Nepalese name "The hornbill" is its full size in four and [sic] five years. It is gregarious and sedate."

NASSA

(c) The shell of a marine gastropod of the genus *once* so called is now included in the genus *Nassarius*. A basket shell. In Latin *nassa* means a basket fish-trap. "The rough *nassa*. A very elegantly ornamented species, with the spine rising into a sharp turret."

HAIKAL

(b) The central chapel of three forming the sanctuary of a Coptic church. Also, attributively, in haikal screen, a screen, often elaborately carved or decorated, which separates the haikal from the body of the church. The Coptic word. "A church of the Coptic rite has a distinctive arrangement. Within the triple-domed sanctuary (haikal) are three altars. On the haikal-screen are a few pictures."

NOMIC

(c) Something that pertains to or is concerned with a discoverable scientific or logical law. In Greek, *nomos* means a law. A term of philosophical and mathematical jargon. "This nomenclature of laws is generally called nomic nomenclature."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1. ... Bg2-b2, 2. Kxg2 Rg8+ and now White either gets mated or allows 3. Kf3 Qxd1+ when his queen goes.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Now this won't hurt a bit

Trust Me, I'm a Doctor
BBC2, 8.00pm (not Northern Ireland)

It's difficult not to trust that nice GP (and writer/comedian) Phil Hammond. His bedside manner is impeccable with the painful facts and fun when fun is called for. Tonight he returns with an extraordinary report on bowel cancer which suggests that your chance of complete recovery—should you be so cursed—can vary by as much as 700% depending on your surgeon. The surgeons with the highest success rate use a method called TME—pioneered in Britain, a proven triumph in Sweden and Holland—yet only practised here on a very limited scale. Why? Then there's a rundown on herbal remedies which really do work and a cure for dizziness which has to be seen to be believed. Fun? Well, apparently you can judge the intelligence of a man by his amount of body hair—the more the better. "But Einstein had none at all," says our man with the stethoscope.

Days Like These
ITV, 8.30pm

Take a dollop of *The Young Ones*, polish it with a dose of *Friends*, add a touch of *Men Behaving Badly* and bingo—a new sitcom is born. The two things which make this a bit different (apart from the fact that episode one can't hold a candle to any of the aforementioned) is that the six teenagers involved (all relative unknowns) live in, er, Luton and it's 1976. So cue long hair, flared jeans and of course 1970s music (though not enough of it). It's early days to pre-judge and it has to be said that the kids—at war with their parents, hankering after cars and sex etc.—are really rather clean-living and nice. The producer (John Bartlett) and the director (Rob Spiller) have dozens of solid hits to their credit, so here's hoping...

Garden Stories: Cycles

BBC2, 8.30pm

In tonight's final programme we watch the cycle of the seasons through the eyes of very young gardeners (Spring: New Beginnings), the newly retired (Summer: Coming of Age), the elderly (Autumn: A Lifetime's Harvest) and the very old (Winter: Laid to Rest). Most moving are the Yorkshireman Peter Jackson, whose wife did all the gardening until she

Rosie Marcel and Max Wrottesley star in *Days Like These* (ITV, 8.30pm)

died—and, at her request, was buried there. "I'll join her when my time comes". And then there's the resting actor, John Tordoff, who, missing the stage, has virtually transformed his water garden into a Victorian seat. Says 93-year-old gardener Lady Daphne Hoole: "There's an oak tree in my garden which was planted by monks in 1400. It's still blooming and must encourage all of us to plant for the future as well as for the joys of planting for ourselves." A perfect programme.

Britain's Worst... Drivers

ITV, 9.00pm

As if we haven't had enough motoring horror stories along comes this one for the *Britain's Worst...* series. It's still being edited as we go to press but I can give you a taste from the publicity: "Hear the incredible tale of a Sheffield resident who cheated death when a Metro driven by a teenage joy-rider careered through his front window..." meet the alcoholic, alcoholic great-grandfather who terrorises residents in Great Yarmouth with his electric invalid bussey... Apparently magistrates are powerless to ban him because, as the law stands, his £2,500, 24-volt buggy doesn't have to be licensed. And then there's "Britain's most banned motorist, Eddie Flahive, who has been convicted of almost 150 motoring offences, 67 for driving while disqualified." Elizabeth Crowley

RADIO CHOICE

Sunny Side Up

Radio 4, 11.30am

A terrific cast has been assembled for this new six-part comedy series and the script, by Scott Cherry, shows every sign in episode one of giving the cast something to get their teeth into. Thelma Barlow, Keith, Kate Swift, Bryan Pringle, Kenneth Cranham and David Ross play the leads in what is essentially the story of the Glee Boys, the most accomplished barber shop quartet in Nottingham. Today's particular crisis concerns one of the quartet wanting to leave "I run a very demanding business, I'm married to a woman who expects 12 holidays a year. I don't have time to mess around." Worse yet, the defector seems to have more time than he owns up to for he is planning to join a rival quartet.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 6.30am Simon Mayo 12.00pm Kevin Greening 2.00pm Radio 1's Essential Selection 4.00pm Judge Jules 11.00pm Radio 1 Rap Show 2.00am Fabio and Grooverider 4.00am Emma B

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30am Wogan 9.30am Richard Ayrton 12.00pm Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Sheeran 5.00pm Des Lynam 7.00pm The Moots (2/5) 7.30pm Friday Night is Music Night 9.15pm Frank Sinatra 10.50pm Liza Minnelli to the Band 11.00pm Focus 11.45pm The Late Show 12.00am Lynn Parsons 4.00am Late Show

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

6.00am Morning Reports 6.00am Breakfast with Julian Wardlaw and Victoria Derbyshire 9.00am Nick Campbell. Includes reports from the closing stages of the second final in the one-day triangular series in Malcombe 12.00pm The Midday News with Annie Webster 1.00pm Ruzoco and Co 4.00pm Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey 7.00pm News Extra. Presented by Susan Sotherton 7.30pm BBC News 8.00pm Sportsnight. John Moore and studio guests look ahead to the weekend's FA Cup See 10.00pm Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Big Boys Breakfast 6.00pm Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Deane 1.00pm The Talk 5.00pm Sportszone 6.00pm Jackie Mason Live from New York 10.00pm Dave Barnett 1.00am Mike Dickinson

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30am Mark Forster 1.00pm Nick Abbott 4.00pm Harriet Scott 7.00pm Wheels of Steel 11.00pm Janey Lee Grace 2.00am Steve Power

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Includes a review of the world premiere of Nick Drake's new play, *The Riot at the National Theatre*. 9.00am *Music at Ten* with Penny Gore. Includes Johann Strauss, son (Pizzicato Polka, with Josef Strauss; Thunder and Lightning Polka); Rachmaninov (Symphony No. 2); Panofsky (The Maiden and the Nightingale, Goyescas). 10.30am *Artist of the Week* Leonard Statkin 11.00am *Sound Stories* Five Femmes Features Peggy Remacle tells the story of Josephine Baker 12.00pm *Composer of the Week* Telemann 1.00pm *The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert* Count Quartet. Elgar (String Quartet in E minor, Op. 61); Beethoven (Symphony No. 18 No. 18) 2.00pm *The BBC Orchestras* BBC Symphony Orchestra under Dmitri Klemenko and Andras Ligeti, Stephen Adenot, piano; Wagner (Overture; Rinaldo and Adieu!); Beethoven (Symphony No. 1 in D minor); Shostakovich (Symphony No. 5) 4.00pm *Music at Ten* with Verity Sharp 5.00pm *Music at Ten* with Verity Sharp 7.30pm *Performance on 3* Chris Wines introduces a concert given last night at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Sophie Daneman, soprano, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, under Monica Huggett, violin. Lieder (Violin Concerto in A, Op. 7 No. 6); Chopin (Prelude in E-flat major, Op. 10 No. 3); Liszt (Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, Op. 11 No. 1); Ravel (Bolero); Debussy (Nocturne in C-flat major, Op. 9 No. 3); Schumann (Piano Concerto No. 1 in F major, Op. 54); Brahms (Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15); Mahler (Symphony No. 2 in C major, Op. 93); Strauss (Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, Op. 355); Strauss (Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, Op. 355) 8.40pm Mozart (Divertimento in D, K. 136) 8.40pm Strauss (Piano Concerto No. 1)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 5.40am Inshore Forecast 5.45am Prayer for the Day 6.00am Today with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor. 6.30am (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Round-up of Government 8.00am Desert Island Discs The Hungarian pianist Andras Schiff is Sue Lawley's castaway (1) 9.45am (FM) Serial: The Tulp Anna Pavord reads the first part of her history of the popular flower (1) 9.45am (LW) An Act of Worship 10.00am Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray 11.00am Serenading The pianist Simon Townley attempts to find the truth behind the image of a lover 11.30am Sunny Side Up by Scott Cherry. A barbershop quartet struggles to survive without a key member. Starring Keith Barron, Bryan Pringle and Glee Boys. See Choice (1/5) 12.00pm (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours 12.00pm (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast 1.00pm The World at One with Nick Clarke 1.30pm Puzzle Panel Chris Maslanka presents riddles and brain teasers 2.00pm The Archers Yesterday's edition (1) 2.15pm Afternoon Play: Larkrise and Beyond First part of Flora Thompson's evocation of late 19th-century country life. With Maggie Steed, Les Ross and John Aronoff 3.00pm Changing Places New series: Howard Stableford investigates land reclamation schemes designed to benefit local communities in Dorchester and Nelson (1/5) 3.30pm Going, Going, Gone (5/5) 3.45pm This Sacred Space Part 30 of the history of Britain, narrated by Anna Massoy 4.00pm Bookclub James Naughtie and his guests discuss John le Carré's Cold War spy trilogy (1) 4.40pm The Message Alex Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends

5.00pm PM with Chris Lowe and Eddie Mair 6.00pm Six O'Clock News 6.30pm The Ghost of Number Ten Political farce, by Steve Nallon and Taran All. New Labour's selection committees get a lesson in diversity from Charles Darwin. Starring Maggie Steed and Mark Williams. Last in series (6/6) 7.00pm The Archers Hayley's independence day 7.15pm Front Row Mark Lawson presents the night's arts programme 7.45pm Speaking for Themselves: The Personal Letters of Winston and Clementine Churchill Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* 8.00pm Any Questions? Panelists including Margaret Beckett MP, Anthony Howard of *The Times* and Malcolm Bruce, Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, respond to questions from an audience in Alton, Derbyshire 8.45pm Letter from America with Alistair Cooke 9.00pm The Friday Play: One Young Man Fact-based drama by Jeremy Weiler, about a terrorist prisoner's death in Saughton Prison in 1993, and his relatives' struggle to uncover what really happened. Performed by actors and members of the family, and followed by a discussion of the issues raised, chaired by Ed Stark 10.00pm The World Tonight Robin Lustig presents 10.45pm Book at Bedtime Mark Twain Stories Kelsey Grammer reads *Carnegie Library in the Cars* 11.00pm Late Night on 4: Late Tackle Eleanor Oldroyd and guests talk about the week's sporting events 11.30pm (LW) Today in Parliament 11.30pm (FM) Front Page Sport Rob Bonnet examines Muhammad Ali's refusal to fight in Vietnam. See Choice (2/3) 12.00am News 12.30am The Late Book: Leonardo's Tale First part by Ken Saro-Wiwa 12.45am Shipping Forecast 1.00am As World Service

VALENTINE'S DAY.
SHOW YOUR HEART WITH

FERRERO ROCHER

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 683, 908. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648, LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.5, MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1025, 1085. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.



RUGBY LEAGUE 46

Old habits die hard for Hanley at Knowsley Road

SPORT

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12 1999

GOLF 50

Ballesteros finds himself in trouble again



FA targets reluctant Fulham manager as crucial Euro 2000 qualifying tie looms

England put Keegan in pole position

By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE preliminaries over, the race to snare the next England manager began in earnest yesterday when it became apparent that, much though the Football Association might offer platonic admiration and respect for Howard Wilkinson, it is reserving its true ardour for the pursuit of Kevin Keegan.

Wilkinson, who presided over England's tame capitulation to France at Wembley on Wednesday night, will meet Noel White, the chairman of the FA's international committee, in London this morning, when he will be asked whether he wishes to be considered for the post on a permanent basis. It is now thought unlikely, though, that he will be automatically handed control for the crucial European championship qualifying tie against Poland on March 27, England's most important match since the goalless draw with Italy in Rome 18 months ago that secured their passage to the World Cup finals.

A continuing caretaker role is still a possibility, but only if the pursuit of Keegan fails. Several sources within the FA hinted yesterday that Wilkinson had never been the front-runner, despite much speculation to the contrary. If he does throw his hat into the ring, he will find himself on a shortlist of three that includes Roy Hodgson, the former Blackburn Rovers manager, but which is headed by the man who used to be known simply as The Messiah when he led Newcastle United into the promised land of the FA Carling Premiership.

In the time-honoured fashion, Keegan said unequivocally yesterday that he was not interested in the job at this stage of his career. He said he was committed to Fulham, who lead the Nationwide League

second division and play Manchester United in the FA Cup fifth round on Sunday; that he had started a job at Craven Cottage and that he was determined to finish it.

Of course, Keegan is hardly in a position to say anything else. He has two years left on a contract that pays an annual salary of £750,000, he is about to lead Fulham into their biggest game for almost a quarter of a century and he has a chairman, Mohamed Al Fayed, of huge power, influence and wealth. The five headhunters at the FA, though, will not be easily dissuaded.

David Sheepshanks, the former chairman of the Football League, David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman, David Richards, the Sheffield Wednesday chairman, David Davies, the FA's executive director, and White are all aware of the shortage of high-class candidates and the list of those who have ruled themselves out of contention. They are also thought to be reluctant to lose Wilkinson as their technical director, a job that they consider to be of equal importance to that of England manager.

Davies, in particular, has



Hodgson: shortlist

brought a welcome sense of urgency to FA affairs since the departure of Keith Wiseman and Graham Kelly and the need to make a swift appointment will only fuel the governing body's determination to get its man.

It appears that the FA has singled Keegan out because of his charisma, his ability to mobilise the nation behind him and to be an inspiration to players and supporters. Whether he would be a viable long-term solution is more open to question. That he worked wonders at Newcastle and is still revered in the North East is not in doubt. He did, however, become increasingly vulnerable to the pressures involved in management at the highest level and concerns exist about how he would cope with the unparalleled tensions that come with managing the national side.

If he refuses to be swayed, the FA may turn next to Hodgson, another gifted coach, who would have been in pole position to succeed Hoddie were it not for the bitter end to his reign at Blackburn and the suggestion that influential players at Wood Park had turned against him. Hodgson is one of that rare breed who seem better suited to international football than day-to-day club management. He would be a fine, feisty, intelligent ambassador for the sport and he has the added advantage of being available.

In the end, it may be something that basic and obvious that sways it. "I think we are very close to filling the position," Geoff Thompson, the acting FA chairman, said. "Noel White will be speaking to Howard Wilkinson on Friday at a technical control board meeting and they have arranged to meet to progress the matter as quickly as possible. It is not for me to say whether Howard is in pole position. Howard is the technical director and I think that's a very important role."

"Clearly, if Howard was not the man who was chosen, or indeed did not want the job, then he would have a great influence on the appointment. Howard and Noel are the two key figures in this situation and the meeting is extremely crucial."

"We hope to have somebody as quickly as possible, but you can't appoint someone overnight. Some are not available or may be already in positions. I doubt if it will be within the next week, but I hope a decision is taken before the Poland match."

Thompson, who will be in New Zealand for a month after this weekend, also confirmed the FA's reluctance to retrace its steps, so appearing to rule out Terry Venables and Bobby Robson. That will disappoint the majority of England players, many of whom still think wistfully about Venables' time at the helm. "I think if you asked the players, then 99 per cent of them would say they would like to see it given to Venables," a member of the England team said yesterday. "They are not just saying



Keegan insisted yesterday that he did not want the job of England manager, but the FA will not be easily dissuaded

I will be staying put, says leading contender

By MEL WEBB

KEVIN KEEGAN was adamant yesterday in his denial that he was interested in becoming the England manager, but, whether by accident or design, in true football style he left the door open just a chink.

"I don't want to say that I wouldn't want to be England manager, because that would be disrespectful to the job," he said. "All I am saying is that I'm not interested now. I said seven days ago that I didn't want to be considered and nothing has happened since to change my mind."

Keegan was the central figure at a press conference called by Fulham to set the scene for the FA Cup fifth-round tie against Manchester United on Sunday, but, try as he might, the chief operations officer was unable to divert questions away from himself and back to the club.

"I wish it hadn't come this week," he said, "but I've heard the rumours today — but if you're looking for the next England manager, you'd better look somewhere else, because it certainly isn't me."

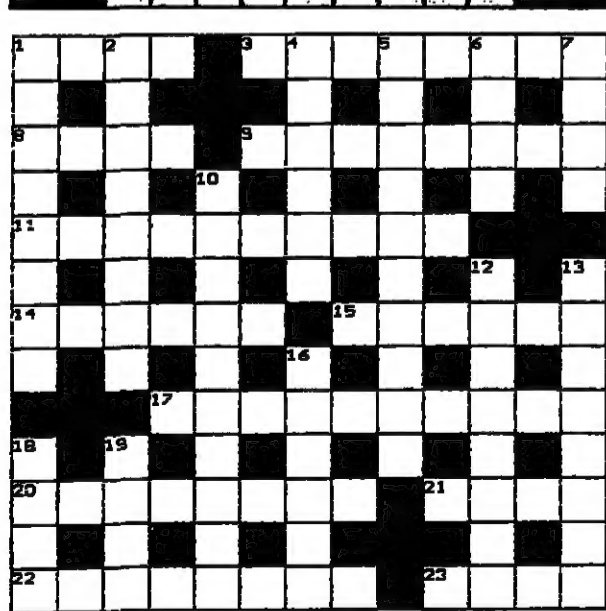
Mohamed Al Fayed, the Fulham owner, made his feelings clear on Keegan's future. "Nobody is indisputable, but Keegan is an ordinary person and somebody I appreciate," he said. "He has been looked after and I don't interfere with what he does. He is a very committed person who is married to the club and I don't think he will divorce himself from it."

Keegan said: "Mr Al Fayed's put his faith in me, given me a budget of millions and a lot of freedom. I've got 18 months left on my contract and, having started the job here, I intend to stay and finish it."

"I've brought a number of players to the club, the fanbase is growing and we all believe that we're on the verge of something good here. That means more to me than the England job at the moment."

"The people at the FA have known me since I took the Under-21s for a couple of years and know that when I say something, I stick to it. I'm flattered, but it's not for me."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1639

ACROSS

- 1 Providence, fortune (4)
- 3 Shakespeare's fat knight (5)
- 8 US Mormon state (4)
- 9 Long, tied-back hair (8)
- 11 Origin, history (of egg painting) (10)
- 14 Put off; incline gradually (6)
- 15 Ripe (6)
- 17 Mocking, disrespectful (10)
- 20 Formal, procedure: the Fourth, Forsyth (8)
- 21 Pillar, buttress (6)
- 22 Move (population) elsewhere (8)
- 23 Cure (4)

DOWN

- 1 Dowdy, unattractive (woman) (8)
- 2 Dishcloth (3-5)
- 4 Without an ethical code (6)
- 5 Tall office-block (10)
- 6 Semite person: type of horse (4)
- 7 Flock, congregation; pen (4)
- 10 Wheel clamp; drove? Bet no (anag.) (6,4)
- 12 Certain to succeed (colloq.) (4-4)
- 13 Of, worn on, the chest (8)
- 16 Flinch, bounce back (6)
- 18 Goad, incentive (4)
- 19 Manager (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1638

- ACROSS: 4 Pen 8 Hoarder 9 Areas 10 Maths 11 Cortège
12 Showaway 14 Prom 15 Foil 16 Sticker 20 Edition
21 Camel 23 Giant 24 Trojans 25 Eve
DOWN: 1 Thames 2 Wart 3 Odessa 4 Procrastinate
5 Nacre 6 Cerebral 7 Esteem 13 Original 15 Fledge
17 Cocoon 18 Relish 19 Piste 22 Meat

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE!
The Times Two Crosswords (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100).
The Times Crossword (Book 1-42/49). The Times Crosswords (Book 20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64